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At least 36 killed in Hong Kong inferno

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SWEEPING SUCCESS

South Africa crushes India, wins series 2-0

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NEARBY

Tech start-up funding sees 40% drop: Report

BENGALURU
Tech startups in Karnataka raised a total of $2.7 billion in the first nine months of calendar year 2025 (9M 2025), a 40% drop compared to the corresponding period in 2024, as per the Karnataka Tech Ecosystem Report for 9M 2025.
» PAGE 7

16-year-old delivers baby in hostel washroom

KALABURAGI
A 16-year-old Class 10 student residing at the Sri D. Devaraj Urs Pre-Matric Girls Hostel in Koppal district delivered a baby boy inside the hostel washroom early on Wednesday. » PAGE 8

No problem in Kerala SIR, 99% forms given: EC to SC

EC says it is coordinating with State poll panel, denies human resources crunch; Kerala govt. had moved SC saying simultaneous conduct of exercise, local body polls will be a 'near impossibility'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) expressed confidence that it can conduct the special intensive revision (SIR) of poll rolls in Kerala in the midst of local body elections, telling the Supreme Court on Wednesday that there is "no problem" whatsoever, and noting that enumeration forms have been distributed to 99% of voters in the State.

"EC and the Kerala State Election Commission are collaborating, coordinating and have held meetings with officials and District Collectors in Kerala. There is no problem. The State Election Commission has said its work is not hampered. In any case it is almost over, 99% voters have been distributed [enumeration forms], more than 50% have been digitised," said the EC, represented by senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant.

The SIR process began in Kerala on November 4 and will go on till December 4. The Kerala State Election Commission had decided to conduct the local body elections on December 9 and 11.

The State government, in a petition filed through advocate C.K. Sasi, had said that the simultaneous conduct of the SIR and the local body elections would be a "near impossibility".

"SIR is a huge exercise requiring deployment of 1,76,000 personnel from government and quasi-governmental services for election-related duties, and further 68,000 police and other security personnel. SIR is also a comprehensive process with a cumbersome procedure," it had submitted.

On Wednesday, the EC denied the Kerala government's version of a human resources crunch, saying "different people have been allotted Booth Level Officer duties from those deployed in the local self government institutions elections".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Obstacle course

The Kerala government and poltical parties have filed separate petitions in the SC submitting that the "cumbersome" SIR process would create an "administrative impasse" during civic polls

Close check: A Booth Level Officer collecting SIR forms in Kerala. THULASI KAKKAT

- The Kerala State Election Commission has decided to **conduct polls** to the local self-government institutions (LSGIs) on Dec. 9 and 11
- Kerala has **1,200 LSGIs** made up of 941 gram panchayats, 152 block panchayats, 14 district panchayats, 87 municipalities and six corporations. There are 23,612 wards in total

CJI to consider plea to revive NJAC, end Collegium system

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday orally said the court would consider a plea seeking to revive the National Judicial Appointments Commission and bring an end to the Collegium system of judicial appointments to the constitutional courts.

The plea, which arraigns the Chief Justice of India and even the Supreme Court Collegium as respondents along with the Union Government and a clutch of parties, submitted that the striking down of the NJAC by the court was a "great wrong because it meant substitution of the will of the people by the opinion of the four judges".

The oral mentioning of the application was made by advocate Mathews J. Nedumpara, who has sought permission to argue the case in-person. The NJAC, which briefly gave the Centre an equal role along with the judiciary in the appointment of judges to constitutional courts, was struck down as unconstitutional in 2015.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

History revisited

1993: Collegium system of judicial appointments **came into existence** by virtue of a Constitution Bench judgment

2014: The National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014 and the Constitution (99th Amendment) Act, 2014 came into existence **to substitute** the Collegium system

2015: A Bench declared the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and the NJAC Act unconstitutional, **reviving the Collegium system**

Murugha Mutt seer, 2 others acquitted in POCSO case

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The District and Sessions Court in Chitradurga has acquitted Shivamurthy Murugha Sharana, head of Murugha Mutt in Chitradurga, and two others, accused under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

The seer was among the accused in two POCSO cases filed on allegations of sexually exploiting minor girls. The case was registered in August 2022, after two minor girls from an institution associated with the mutt alleged sexual harassment and exploitation. The acquittal is now in one of the cases.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Cruelty charge can be invoked even in void or voidable marriage: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ruled that the provisions of the offence under Section 498A (husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) are attracted even in cases of a void or voidable marriage, or a relationship in the nature of marriage, provided the ingredients of the offence are otherwise established.

"...the expression 'husband' in Section 498A IPC is not confined to a man in a legally valid marriage, but extends to one who enters into a marital relationship which is void or voidable, as also to a live-in relationship which bears the attributes of marriage, so long as the essential ingredients of cruelty as defined in the explanation to the section are satisfied," the court said.

Live-in relationship

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while rejecting a man's petition challenging criminal cases registered based on a complaint of a woman, with whom he had only live-in relationship, who alleged that he had subjected her to cruelty besides demanding dowry. The petitioner had claimed that he is legally married to another woman and not the complainant, and hence offence under Section 498A cannot be invoked against him on the complaint of the woman whom he had not married legally.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

'Leadership row will be resolved soon'

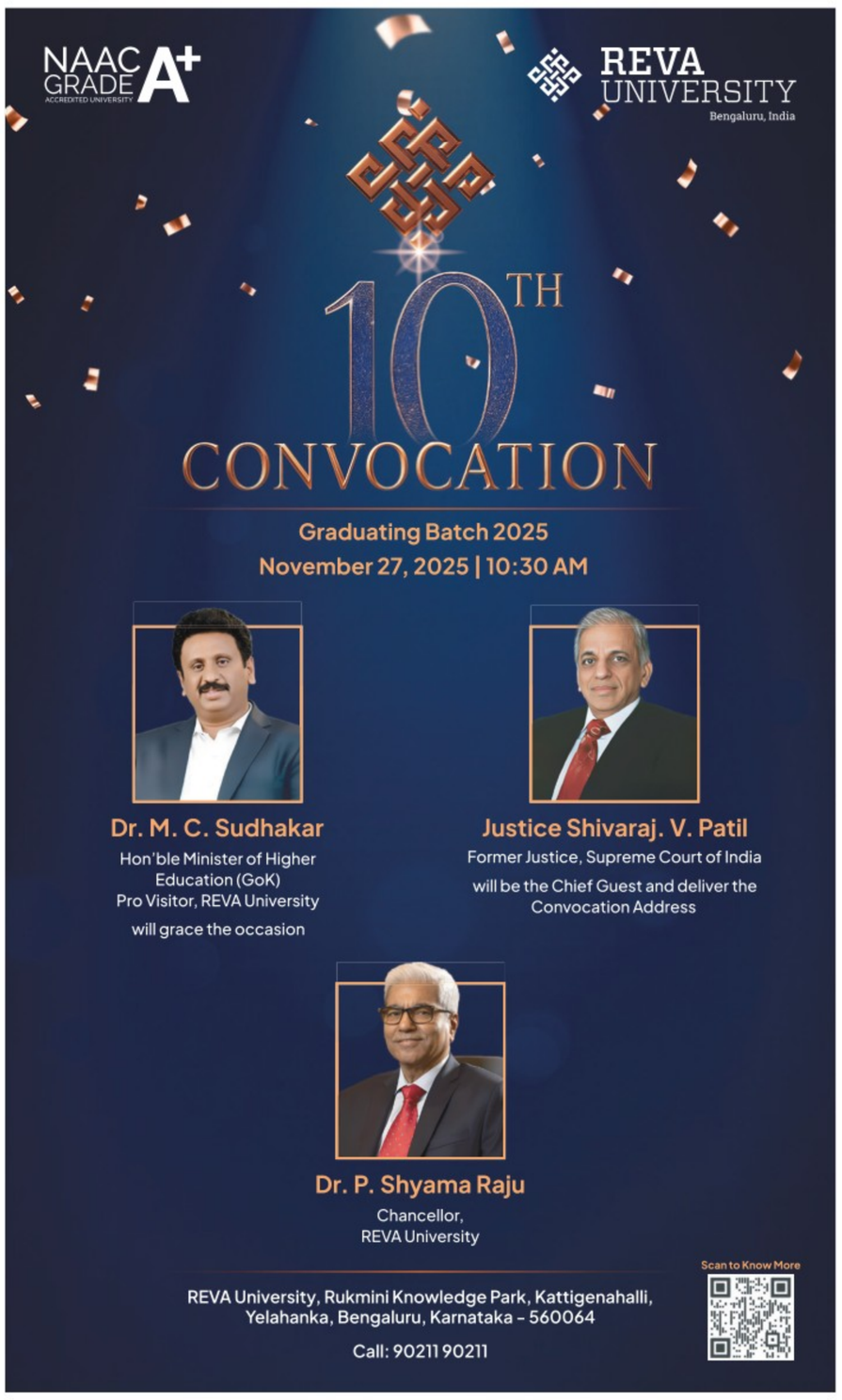
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

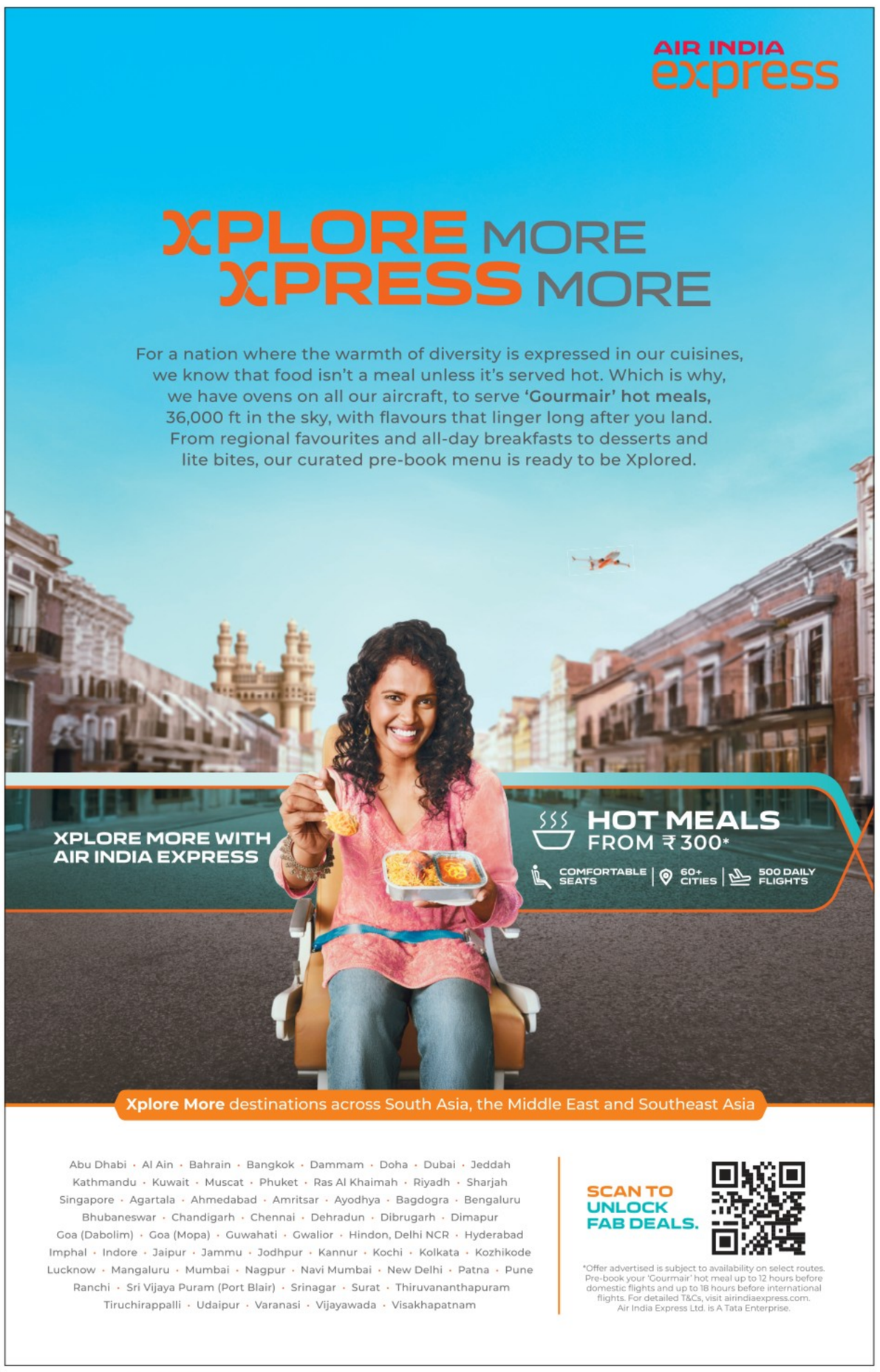
As the power struggle within the ruling Congress in Karnataka threatened to escalate further, party president Mallikarjun Kharge announced on Wednesday that he, with party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, would resolve the leadership issue soon.

Speaking in New Delhi, he said, "The high command – myself, Rahul ji and Sonia ji – will together take a decision on the issue and resolve it."

Meanwhile, in Bengaluru, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar held talks with several leaders.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 8

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GETTY IMAGES

I am preparing for everything, including the Olympics. For every wrestler, that's the main competition as we don't get many medals there

Focus is on the Asian Games, want to give it my best shot

Antim, the two-time former World under-20 champion, is keen to improve her mat work and conditioning ahead of a busy calendar in the run-up to the 2028 Olympics

INTERVIEW

ANTIM PANGHAL

Y.B. Sarangi

Having bounced back in 2025 by winning her second consecutive bronze medal in the World championships in Zagreb, Croatia, wrestler Antim Panghal (53kg) has managed to leave behind her forgettable outing in the Paris Olympics last year and make a new start.

With a busy calendar awaiting her in 2026, the 21-year-old, a former two-time World under-20 champion and an Asian Games bronze medallist, is keen to raise her game and improve the colour of her medals in the future. She is also keen to carry on her good work and realise her potential by medalling in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Antim spoke to *The Hindu* about her rare Worlds medal and the upcoming challenges. Excerpts:

How was the time after the Paris Olympics (which was not a good outing for you)? How did you recover and make a comeback?

After the Olympics, I had a knee injury. My physiotherapist got it treated for a month and a half. After that, he got me on the mat. He said, first you have to get the injury treated. After getting it treated, I got a full rehab done. Everyone supported me a lot.

Tell us about your coaching staff now?

After Paris, my coaching set-up has evolved. I now train primarily with the coaches at Sports Authority of India (SAI) Hisar. When I am called for national training camps, my programme continues without interruption – the national coaches cooperate closely and ensure alignment.

Of course, it can be challenging at times because every coach has their own style and area of expertise. But we maintain regular communication between the SAI coaches and the national camp staff, which really helps in keeping my training consistent and effective.

We saw your performance in the World championships. How do you rate it because you had already won a bronze medal earlier?

2024 didn't go so well for me. After that, I wanted to win a medal in the World championships. I prepared a lot, trained a lot.

Everyone supported me. My parents, my siblings, JSW and my manager supported me a lot.

Which was the most difficult medal in the two World championships?

It was difficult to medal in both World championships. It was not easy. I had to work hard in both. When I fought for the first time (in 2023), I didn't have a medal in the World championships. I had not even competed in the Worlds before that. This time, I had a little experience.

Vinesh won two bronze medals in the World championships. And now you, too, have two. You are the only two Indian women to do so. How do you feel about it?

Vinesh was a very good wrestler. She struggled a lot. She has two medals. I also have two medals. If I train a lot, I will get more medals.

All the top wrestlers in India will take part in the PWL. Some will come from abroad. It is a good chance to fight with everyone at the start of the year

The National championship is happening in Ahmedabad in December. It is generally seen that well known wrestlers don't compete in the National championships. What is the reason for that? Are you taking part this year?

Yes, I am competing. There is nothing like well-known wrestlers skipping the event. Senior nationals is the biggest event in India. Sometimes, someone gets injured after the competition. So, they can't take part.

What is your target for next year? There will be World championships, Asian Games and Asian Championships. How are you planning for these?

My focus is on the Asian Games. I want to give my 100 per cent in that. There is also a World championship before that. I have to prepare well for that. There will be a lot of competitions. There are three major competitions. People who support me make plans for me. They tell me what I have to do. I do everything according to that.

Los Angeles 2028 is two and a half years away. What are your plans for that?

I am preparing for everything, including the Olympics. For every wrestler, the main competition is the Olympics. We don't get that many medals in the Olympics. We get one or two medals in wrestling. So, I want to get more medals.

How much body weight do you maintain? Are you planning to change your body weight?

No, my weight is fine. Everyone stays two-three kg higher than their weight category. So, my weight is fine (for my 53kg category).

How has JSW's support helped?

They gave me a job, a manager. They take care of everything. JSW conducts camps and they are beneficial. I attended an international training camp at Shigakkan University in Japan, organised jointly by JSW and the Wrestling Federation of India. We also travelled to a few other universities to train with different groups of wrestlers. It was a great experience – I got to train with some of the top Japanese wrestlers and the environment was very supportive. I even reviewed my semifinal bout with their coaches, who helped me understand new technical details and the areas where I needed to improve. Overall, the camp was a major learning experience for me, especially with the focus on preparing for the 2026 season including the Asian Games.

The PWL will be relaunched sooner than later. How big an opportunity is that?

All the top wrestlers in India will take part. Some will come from abroad. It is a good chance to fight with everyone at the start of the year. It will be a good competition for everyone.

When you will be in a team with foreign wrestlers, how will it help your game and overall personality?

When I went out for training, I got to know how the wrestlers over there train before a bout. If I will be in a PWL team, I will get to know more about different wrestlers in my team. I will get to know the way they eat and prepare. It will be very beneficial for me.

In which areas of your game do you need to improve?

I will have to focus on my mat work, conditioning. I will have to see who is doing what, where I am lacking. My coaches tell me where I have to attack, where I have to defend. We watch videos of the bouts to understand where to attack and where to defend.

Women's wrestling has become very competitive in our country. How good is it for India?

If there is a lot of competition here, everyone gives her best and prepares well. It helps in fighting well abroad and winning medals.

Bellandur Road–Carmelaram double line gets CRS nod

The CRS team carried out a detailed examination of the track, signalling systems, and station infrastructure before granting clearance, according to K-RIDE officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The newly laid double line between Bellandur Road and Carmelaram, along with the completely built Huskur railway station, has received authorisation for passenger train operations following an inspection by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS). The approval marks a significant step forward in enhancing rail capacity on the busy Baiyappanahalli-Hosur corridor.

Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Ltd. (K-RIDE) Officials said the CRS team carried out a detailed examination of the track, signalling systems, and station infrastructure before granting clearance. "The section has met all prescribed safety and operational standards, and is ready for passenger movement," a K-RIDE official said.

Official sources noted that the commissioning of the Baiyyappanahalli-Bellandur Road and Heelalige-Anekal Road stretches will create room for expanding Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) services, which are in high demand among daily commuters travelling between Bengaluru and Hosur.

The section has met all prescribed safety and operational standards, and is ready for passenger movement, said a K-RIDE official. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The approval marks a significant step forward in enhancing rail capacity on the busy Baiyappanahalli - Hosur corridor

According to officials, during the inspection,it is reported achieving a peak speed of 107.7 kmph on the newly constructed section. The K-RIDE recently rolled out 25 kV AC electric traction on the Bellandur Road-Carmelaram double line and the loop lines at Huskur station, all under the Bengaluru Division. The upgraded infrastructure strengthens the operational capability of the larger Baiyappanahalli-Hosur route.

Although Huskur station will initially be earmarked for freight movement, officials maintain that it will eventually serve a massive commuter population. With the station located roughly 5 km from Electronics City, it offers a far more convenient option compared to Heelalige station, which lies nearly 10 km away.

'Ease travel'

Commuters and residents in the area believe the new station could significantly ease travel.

Ravindra Rao, a resident of Electronics City, said Huskur's opening is long overdue.

"Huskur will be a game-changer for people working in Electronics City, Bommasandra and Veerasandra. Thousands of employees waste hours in traffic every day. The Railways must introduce a higher number of passenger trains on this line at the earliest; this route desperately needs frequent services," Mr. Rao said.

GBA corporations float tenders for towing machines

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have floated tenders to hire towing machines, with the process set to begin first from Chalukya Circle to Hebbal and along the Outer Ring Road (ORR), officials told *The Hindu*.

"The corporations have floated tenders at the division level to procure towing vehicles on hire, covering the vehicle, fuel, driver and full maintenance at an estimated cost of ₹14.52 lakh for each set up," a senior official said.

Officials from the Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP) said the immediate challenge is identifying a dedicated space to park both abandoned vehicles and those towed from no-parking zones. Currently, there is no centralised yard to hold such vehicles, which limits how quickly enforcement can scale up. Discussions are also under way on finalising towing charges, which will be paid to the GBA.

GBA officials said one proposal under consideration is to fix a payment of ₹1,000 per vehicle towed,

Traffic police say the immediate challenge is identifying a dedicated space to park both abandoned vehicles and those towed from no-parking zones. FILE PHOTO

which would cover operational expenses and ensure the service remains financially viable.

Corporation officials stated that the deployment will primarily focus on high-density traffic corridors, rather than covering the entire city. They explained that towing machines are limited in number and need to be used where violations and congestion are most frequent. "Spreading them thin across all zones would dilute impact and make enforcement inefficient. Concentrating on busy stretches first allows officials to manage resources better and ensure visible, timely results instead of under-utilising the machines in low-demand pockets," the official added.

They further added that the towing vehicles are expected to be handed over to the Traffic Police by the first week of December. They added that in several stretches, apart from two-wheelers, school vans and buses have also been flouting parking rules. As per the penalty structure, two-wheelers violating parking norms will face a total fine of ₹1,000, comprising a ₹500 penalty under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and another ₹500 under the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024. For cars and other vehicles, the fines will be up to ₹1,500 (₹500 under the MV Act, 1988 and ₹1,000 under the GBG Act, 2024).

Joint committee of East and South Corporations to resolve ORR issues

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao announced that a joint committee will be set up between the East and South Corporations to collectively resolve ORR-related issues.

He chaired a consultation meeting with Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) of the East Corporation to review infrastructure gaps around Sarjapur Road and the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and to speed up road, mobility, and waste-management upgrades on Wednesday.

To ease congestion along the Outer Ring Road, the corporation has implemented three Entry-Exit connections allowing vehicles to shift from the main carriageway to service roads.

Mr. Rao said that the remaining links fall under BMRCL's scope and must be completed without delay. At Kaikondrahalli on Sarjapur Road, the Chief Commissioner directed officials to upgrade the median island and resolve

'Develop under-flyover spaces'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to take up the development of certain under-flyover spaces through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The GBA Chief, who reviewed various work under the East Corporation on Wednesday, directed officials to accelerate key road, drainage, and traffic management works across the corporation.

Mr. Rao noted that beautification work at Iblur Junction has already been completed through CSR. He said similar interventions should be replicated elsewhere and stressed the need to maintain cleanliness beneath all flyovers. At Carmelaram, he pointed to the L&T-developed 'Chaturanga Mandapa' model as an example of design innovation that could be adopted in other locations.

To ease congestion along the Outer Ring Road, the East Corporation has implemented three Entry-Exit connections allowing vehicles to shift from the main carriageway to service roads

Transferable Development Rights (TDR) issues to enable service-road development.

Mr. Rao also said that scientific traffic design will be applied at the Iblur Junction.

The RWA meeting focused on improving road connectivity, strengthening pedestrian and cycling networks, tackling encroachments, and operationalising dry-waste collection systems. "All 23 Dry Waste Collection Centres (DWCCs) must be fully operational within six months," the Chief Commissioner said.

HC orders Central govt. official to inspect jaggery factory whose closure was allegedly influenced by State Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka, noting allegations that a private jaggery factory's closure was influenced by a current Cabinet Minister who is also a director in a private sugary factory, restrained officials of the State government in interfering in the affairs of the jaggery factory till further orders.

While staying the State government's November 15 order for closing down the jaggery factory, Shree Brahmananda Sagar Jaggery Industries (SBSJI), Belagavi, the court directed the Chief Director of Sugar, Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, to hold a complete inspection of

SBSJI and its associate company, Askins Biofuels Private Limited (ABPL), on November 28.

Submit report

The Chief Sugar Director has been directed to submit a comprehensive inspection report to the court on or by December 9 on what is being manufactured by the petitioner and their associate company as on the date of inspection, and not what they are intending to manufacture in future.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on a petition filed by SBSJI challenging the closure order, which was issued on the allegations that the petitioner is manufacturing brown sugar though it has a licence to manufacture only jaggery.

No official

The court also said that no official of the State government should be be involved in the inspection by the Chief Director of Sugar.

The State government, citing reports from its officials, claimed that *prima facie* the petitioner factory was manufacturing brown sugar through vacuum fan process which is contrary to the Sugar Control Order.

However, it was alleged in the petition that the happenings and the projection of illegality against it was owing to the main director of Alagawadi Bireshwara Sugars Private Limited, who is a Minister in the present government, and therefore the officers of the State are acting at the behest of the Minister, who is influencing the officers.

Meanwhile, the court said that the State government could not have flexed its muscles when a dispute between Askins BPL and Alagawadi BSPL is pending adjudication before a Division Bench.

Manipal Hospitals to offer care for Maldivian patients under Aasandha Scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Manipal Hospitals has said that it would offer uninterrupted access to multi-specialty treatments to Maldivian citizens, under the Maldivian government-funded Aasandha scheme.

Under Aasandha, Maldivian patients can access diagnostic services, ICUs, round-the-clock emergency care and the hospital's in-house pharmacy.

Every year, an average of 500 to 600 Maldivian patients received treatment for a diverse range of conditions - from cardiovascular to neurological disorders, claimed Manipal Hospitals.

Cybersecurity firm Deepwatch opens GCC in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deepwatch, a Palo Alto-based firm that offers precision Managed Detection and Response (MDR), has opened a global capability centre (GCC) in Bengaluru.

The firm that offers MDR, a cybersecurity service that combines advanced technology and human expertise to provide round the day monitoring, threat hunting, and incident response for organisations, said deepening its footprint in India was part of its global expansion strategy.

"Our investment in Bengaluru represents more than a new office, it's a testament to Deepwatch's commitment to developing exceptional AI-powered solutions for the cyber industry," said John DiLullo, Chief Executive Officer at Deepwatch.

"India's deep pool of cybersecurity talent gives us a unique advantage to accelerate product innovation, strengthen our threat intelligence capabilities," said Prasad Channabasappa, Managing Director, Deepwatch India.

Over 40 lakh people screened for cancers under Gruha Arogya scheme

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Since the State Health Department extended its Gruha Arogya scheme across Karnataka in August, over 40 lakh people in rural areas have been screened for oral, breast, and cervical cancers. According to Health Department data, between August 1 and October 31, as many as 16,277 people were suspected to have cancer symptoms and referred to higher facilities for further evaluation. Of them, 552 have been diagnosed with these cancers.

The initiative, aimed at early detection and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) among the rural population aged above 30 years, targets 1.67 crore people.

While the Gruha Arogya scheme was formally launched by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in October last year, it was initially piloted in Kolar district, where dedicated health teams conducted door-to-door screening for major NCDs. Following its success, the scheme was scaled up to cover all districts.

Door-to-door screening

During the pilot phase, screening was carried out for diabetes, hypertension, and three common cancers – oral, breast, and cervical – in individuals aged 30 and above. Raghunandan, State Deputy Director (NCD), said over 36,000 rural ASHAs are now conducting door-to-door visits to raise awareness and encourage health checks at Ayushman Health and Wellness Centres.

Community Health Officers (CHOs) are screening for 14 NCDs and recording the data on the NCD portal. Between August and October, 23.23 lakh people were screened for oral cancer, with 7,958 suspected cases and 164 confirmed diagnoses. For breast cancer, 9.49 lakh women were screened, 4,331 suspected, and 132 confirmed. In the case of cervical cancer, 7.32 lakh women were screened, 3,988 suspected, and 256 diagnosed.

In Karnataka, an estimated 87,855 new cancer cases and 26,516 deaths were reported in 2024. GETTY IMAGES

Regular follow-ups

Dr. Raghunandan said those diagnosed are being referred to Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST)-empanelled tertiary care centres for further investigations and treatment. "Free medication and regular follow-up care are being provided at the nearest Ayushman Health and Wellness Centres," he said.

The Gruha Arogya scheme also covers other major NCDs such as diabetic foot, mental health disorders, neurological disorders, obstructive sleep apnea, diabetic retinopathy, chronic kidney disease (CKD), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), and anaemia among individuals aged 19 to 29 years.

Cancer burden

According to the National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research-Indian Council of Medical Research (NCDIR-ICMR) estimates published in JAMA 2025, India recorded an estimated 15.62 lakh new cancer cases and 8.74 lakh deaths in 2024, with breast, cervical, oral, and lung cancers being the leading types.

In Karnataka, an estimated 87,855 new cancer cases and 26,516 deaths were reported in 2024. Of these, 25% (21,898 cases) were tobacco-related. Among men, 37% of the 39,170 cases were linked to tobacco use, while women accounted for 48,685 cases, of which 15% were tobacco-related, according to data from the Population Based Cancer Registry maintained at the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO).

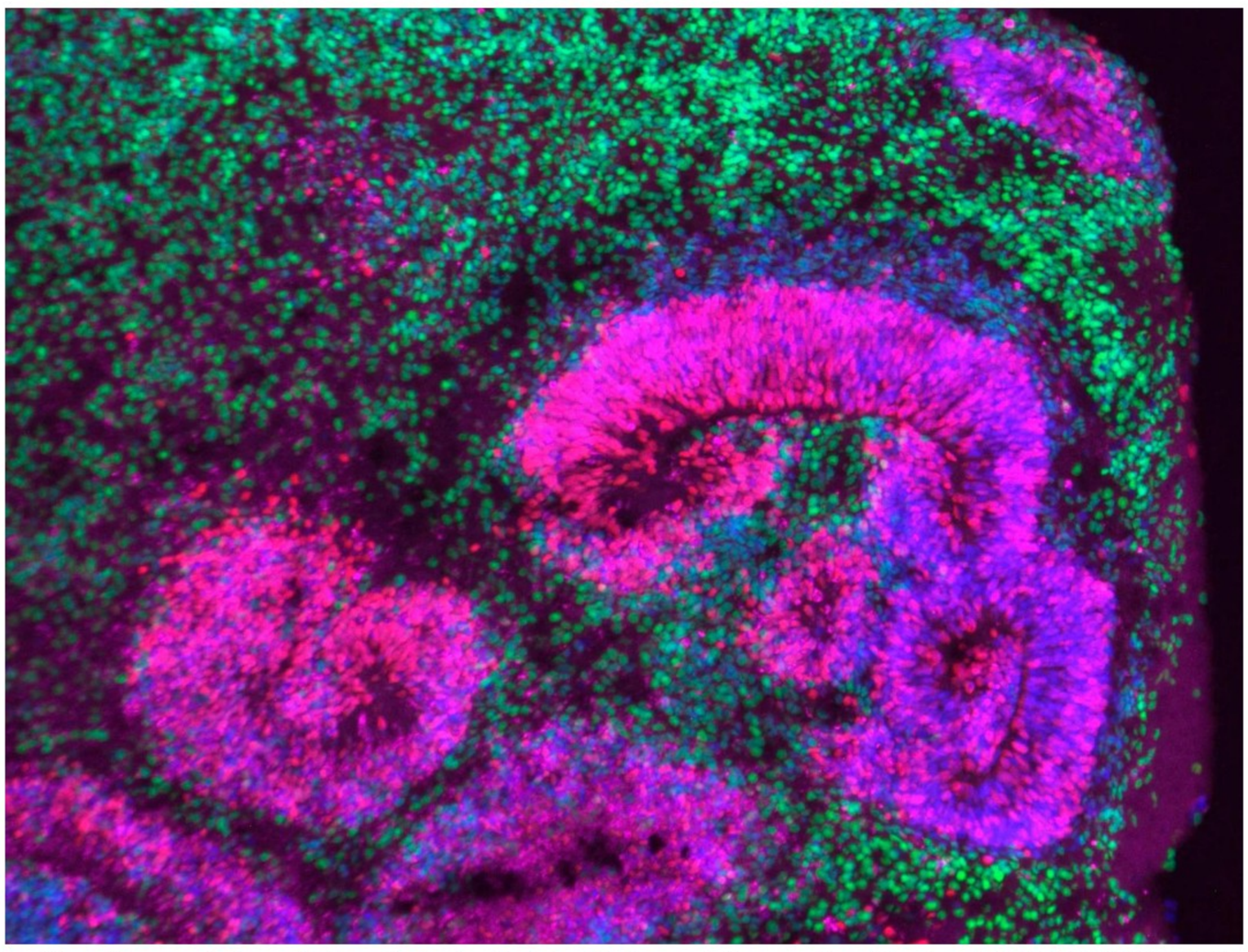
In Bengaluru city, the estimated cancer incidence for 2024 stood at 15,153 cases, with 3,826 deaths. Tobacco-related cancers made up 24.1% of all cases, with a higher proportion among men (36.6%) compared to women (15.2%).

At Kidwai Institute, as many as 21,881 new cancer cases were registered in 2024, of which 12,930 were histologically or cytologically confirmed. Notably, 3,939 (30.5%) of these were tobacco-related, underscoring the continued impact of tobacco use on the State's cancer burden.

Groundbreaking brain atlases capture development in motion

New brain atlases combine several advanced mapping methods to trace how neurons and glia form, migrate, and diversify across time and species, turning static brain charts into a dynamic developmental reference; the brain is portrayed as a living continuum, a time-lapse of genetic patterns

Anirban Mukhopadhyay



An eight-week human cortical organoid with rosette structures (in pink and blue) surrounded by neuronal populations (green). JOSE SOTO FROM UCLA; NANO ET AL., NATURE NEUROSCIENCE (CC BY)

Imagine watching the brain not as a finished organ but as a city under construction, where every neuron is a worker changing jobs as the skyline rises.

A series of papers in *Nature* published on November 5 has captured exactly that. Led by researchers at the Allen Institute for Brain Science in the U.S., together with partners across the US BRAIN Initiative, scientists have charted how the brain's main cells – neurons and their supporting glia – form, migrate, and specialise across species from mouse to human.

Instead of treating the brain as a fixed catalogue of parts, the new maps portray it as a living continuum, a time-lapse of genetic patterns flickering on and off as cells mature, connect, and build networks.

For the first time these studies offer a unified view of brain development across time and species. Previous efforts were hard to compare because labs used different methods, sampled different stages or focused on separate regions. The BRAIN Initiative teams solved this by standardising protocols, building new sequencing and imaging tools, and creating shared computational pipelines to align data from mouse, marmoset, and human tissue. Together, they now provide a common reference for how neurons and glia emerge and assemble into circuits.

Hongkui Zeng, director of the Allen Institute, described it as ushering in a "new era of developmental neuroscience," one that unifies data across space, time, and species. The six coordinated studies offer what she calls a "common reference" for how genes assemble the brain's intricate circuitry, a guide likely to steer neuroscience for years to come.

Where old maps fell short

For decades, brain atlases treated neurons as if they came in fixed categories. The new datasets have overturned this view by showing that developing cells move through gradual transitions, with gene-activity patterns that change step by step rather than in sharp jumps.

In one of Dr. Zeng's studies, her team found that as the mouse brain matured, young neurons passed through intermediate stages where they showed a mix of features from both earlier and forthcoming cell types.

"The boundaries are never clear-cut," Dr. Zeng said.

Tomasz Nowakowski, an associate professor at the University of California, San Francisco, showed in his human lineage atlas that human brain development followed a similar path. By tracing the descendants of individual stem cells in cultured human foetal brain tissue, his team found that radial glia, the brain's builder cells, first produced neurons that activate signals, then those that quiet them.

This gradual shift – which previous single-timepoint maps couldn't see – confirmed that neurons don't acquire their adult identity all at once.

Specifically, the two studies together showed that developing neurons don't hold a single, stable identity. Their gene activity shifts gradually as they mature, passing through intermediate stages rather than jumping from one defined type to another.

Cells' journeys

Dr. Nowakowski used viral barcoding to trace cell lineages in cultured human foetal brain tissue. The technique relies on harmless viruses that tag each stem cell with a unique genetic label, allowing researchers to follow all of its descendants.

His team then applied single-cell RNA sequencing to measure which genes were active in each developing neuron.

The team also used spatial profiling to place those gene readouts back into their exact locations within the tissue, almost like returning pins to a 3D map. Together, these methods created a time-resolved record showing how individual cells divided, differentiated and settled into their developmental paths.

Each of these steps began to show how one cell becomes many. Dr. Nowakowski said DNA analyses from postmortem human brains showed the same developmental shift his team observed in the culture, confirming that the pattern was not an artefact of the laboratory system. Dr. Zeng's computational atlas added a way to define developmental transitions more precisely. Her team used algorithms to detect when a neuron's gene-activity profile had changed enough to qualify as a different cell stage, replacing earlier subjective judgments with quantitative criteria.

Finally, Yale University professor Rong Fan's team added the missing dimension: place. In their spatial tri-omics atlas, the researchers measured three kinds of molecular information in thin, preserved slices of developing brain tissue: which genes were active, how accessible the surrounding DNA was, and which proteins each cell produced. Then they linked each measurement to the exact location of the cell within the tissue. This made it possible to see where different molecular patterns appeared and how neighbouring cells changed together over time. Taken together, these approaches allowed the researchers to follow developing cells across both time and space, rather than capturing them at isolated moments.

Reading the new atlas

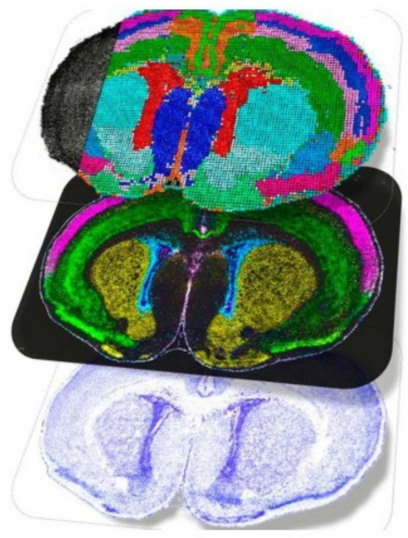
Together, these atlases have opened the door to understanding how billions of individual cell decisions shape the brain's extraordinary diversity.

Cindy van Velthoven, an investigator at the Allen Institute, was part of a mouse study that tracked how inhibitory neurons, the cells that calm or balance brain activity, diversify and migrate as the forebrain forms. The team found inhibitory lineages that diversified at different times, some appeared later and were distributed across several regions, suggesting late-acting roles.

Building on his work, Dr. Nowakowski's human atlas traced the complementary side of this circuitry: excitatory neurons, which increase neural activity. Read together, the two studies reveal how the brain's opposing systems of excitation and inhibition take shape through continuous, overlapping pathways of gene expression.

Those same molecular networks also appear to have deep evolutionary roots, an idea explored by Alex Pollen, an associate professor at University of California, San Francisco.

> Extending our work to the whole brain, including both the cortex, the brain's outer layer, and the deeper subcortical regions that coordinate movement and emotion, would be the first step
>
> HONGKUI ZENG
>
> **DIRECTOR OF THE ALLEN INSTITUTE**



Postnatal mouse brain spatial multiomics maps highlighting cortical layer neuron maturation and oligodendrocyte differentiation and myelination. DI ZHANG FROM YALE UNIVERSITY; ZHANG ET AL., NATURE (CC BY)

In a cross-species analysis, Dr. Pollen and his colleagues compared gene activity across mammals and found that a neuron type once thought unique to primates, the TAC3 interneuron, which helps regulate emotion and hormonal signalling, is present across many mammalian lineages, though its abundance and molecular profile vary.

"The strongest evidence for shared ancestry came from looking broadly, from marsupials to primates," Dr. Pollen said.

All these findings show that evolution tends to modify existing neuron types rather than create entirely new ones. In humans, similar developmental pathways are present but progress over a longer time, giving cells more time to diversify and form complex circuits.

Across species, the underlying pattern is consistent: developmental programmes are reused and adjusted, not replaced, to build the brain's wiring.

Bringing it all together

With the individual atlases in place, the consortium took one final step. In the meta-atlas project led by Dr. Nowakowski, Dr. Zeng, and training programme mentor Aparna Bhaduri at the University of California, Los Angeles, the researchers aligned developmental data from mouse, marmoset, and human brains to create a shared reference that allows cell states to be compared across species.

Dr. Zeng acknowledged that "a lack of brain tissue, especially human samples from key stages of development, may be the biggest limitation for now."

She said overcoming such gaps means constantly improving both the data and the tools used to analyse it: "We should not treat taxonomies rigidly, but continue to refine them as we gain new knowledge."

For Dr. Bhaduri, the goal is to build a shared resource the entire field can use.

"Having this reference data is a fantastic opportunity for the field," she said. "It will empower us to have common gene signatures, cell names, and analytical tools to move the field forward."

Their project treats brain mapping as a collective, ongoing effort rather than as a finished product. As Dr. Zeng put it, the aim isn't to finish the map but to ensure everyone is using the same coordinates.

From maps to medicine

For neuroscientists, these maps offer a clearer view of how early development sets the conditions for later brain function. They show when key genetic pathways switch on or off during gestation and how those shifts guide cells into specific roles.

The atlases highlight periods of development in which many genes associated with neurodevelopmental disorders are highly active, which could help researchers pinpoint when small disruptions are most likely to have long-term effects. Conditions such as autism or epilepsy are thought to involve changes in early developmental timing rather than damage that occurs later in life.

Dr. Nowakowski said the next step is to test whether the developmental switches his team observed also occur in other systems. Non-human primates, he noted, "may be the closest *in-vivo* model" while "organoids are another emerging model," and he said he looks forward to seeing if the results align.

Beyond genetics and timing, the surrounding tissue environment also affects how cells mature. In the spatial atlas prepared by Fan *et al.*, the team compared maps of gene and protein activity and found that cells in regions with stronger developmental signalling matured sooner while those in quieter regions developed more slowly. When they examined injured tissue, the brain activated patterns of gene activity similar to those seen during early development, suggesting shared mechanisms between growth and repair.

Researchers increasingly believe many neurological conditions arise when developmental events occur at the wrong time or in the wrong place, such as cells arriving too early, maturing too quickly or settling in an unusual location. The new atlases make these vulnerable periods easier to identify, pointing to specific stages in which small disruptions may have long-term consequences.

Work still ahead

Some neuron types appear only briefly or only switch on their defining genes in specific conditions, such as after recent activity or during particular behavioural states. Dr. Van Velthoven said such fleeting or condition-specific neurons "likely remain unseen" in today's datasets.

Dr. Zeng agreed the journey is far from over: "Extending our work to the whole brain, including both the cortex, the brain's outer layer, and the deeper subcortical regions that coordinate movement and emotion, would be the first step."

"We need more timepoints and brain regions to construct a much more detailed framework for how the brain ultimately emerges," Dr. Bhaduri said.

Together, these gaps define the next steps for the field: broader brain regions, more developmental stages, and denser sampling to capture cell types that current methods miss.

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from New Delhi. anirban.genetics@south.du.ac.in)

Channel state information from WiFi signals can be used to identify people in a room but is harder to obtain and needs specialised hardware and firmware. PAUL HANAOKA/UNSPLASH

WiFi signals can quietly surveil you, says study

Vasudevan Mukunth

Modern WiFi standards have a feature called beamforming that helps routers push signals more efficiently towards connected devices. To do this, phones and laptops regularly broadcast short reports describing how they "see" the wireless channel. These reports are unencrypted and can be picked up by any other device in range.

Are these reports rich enough for someone to recognise who is moving through a room just from how their body disturbs the WiFi field? A new study by researchers at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany has found the answer is "yes."

Previous work had already shown that channel state information (CSI) from WiFi signals can be used to identify people in a room but CSI is harder to obtain and needs specialised hardware and firmware. Beamforming feedback information (BFI) is however, available on off-the-shelf hardware. The authors thus treated BFI as a potentially more serious privacy risk and measured how far an attacker could go with it in a realistic setting.

They built a WiFi setup with two access points and four "listening" perspectives, all operating in the 6 GHz band. They asked 197 volunteers to walk back and forth through the WiFi field normally, briskly, through a turnstile, and while carrying a backpack or a crate. The system recorded both BFI and CSI traces, which the team then fed into a relatively simple neural network that could learn patterns directly from the raw data.

Thus they found that BFI alone was strongly identifying. When the model was trained and tested on normal walks, it recognised more than 160 individuals with 99.5% accuracy. CSI, which has higher time resolution but is harder to obtain in practice, was less accurate on the same dataset.

The model also transferred reasonably well across walking styles: BFI could still identify people when they wore a backpack, carried a crate, walked faster or passed through a turnstile, although the performance dipped somewhat for more unusual motions. It also outperformed CSI.

BFI recognised 160 individuals with 99.5% accuracy. CSI, which has a higher time resolution, was less accurate on the same dataset

According to the researchers, the results change how we should think about the privacy consequences of everyday WiFi use. They've shown that inferring one's identity doesn't necessarily require hacking firmware or networks but only a device within listening range. They don't even need the WiFi password.

The ability is doubly insidious because BFI is produced by normal Wifi networks and, unlike CCTV cameras, doesn't advertise its role in surveillance. People who might avoid visible cameras might still ignore access points mounted in ceilings or corners. In this sense, WiFi-based tracking can create an "inverse panopticon" where individuals behave as if unobserved while being silently profiled.

Once a system can stably recognise individuals from their gait, any other WiFi-based task. such as recognising activities or estimating occupancy. can be linked to those identities. This makes the harm cumulative because activity and movement logs can be tied to the same person over time, even if their real-world name is not immediately known.

Finally, the researchers noted that current mitigation ideas like adding noise to training fields are immature, often require special hardware, and mainly target CSI instead of BFI.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

People panic as leopard is spotted in Gadag

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Panic spread in parts of Gadag city after a lone leopard was spotted in CCTV cameras in areas like APMC Yard and Panchakshari Layout.

On Wednesday morning, the movement of a leopard was first seen on the road near the Panchakshari City Park.

Some locals who came out after hearing the continuous and unusual barking of dogs, said that they saw the leopard running on the road.

Some youth began spreading the footage of the wild animal running away from a godown, on social media, adding to the fear.

It was later captured in a footage roaming around the APMC Yard.

Deputy Conservator of Forests Santosh K. said that there is no need to panic.

"Our staff members have already inspected the place. They will be patrolling all night for the next four or five days. The public need not be afraid," the Deputy Conservator said.

Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail chosen for Kuvempu national award

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Mahabaleshwar Sail, Konkani writer based in Goa, has been chosen for the Kuvempu National Award 2025, instituted by the Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Trust at Kuppali in Shivamogga district.

The award selection committee, headed by B.L. Shankar, president of the trust, met in Bengaluru on November 20 and selected Mr. Sail for the honour.

The selection committee included eminent Konkani writer and translator S.M. Krishnaraya, former secretary of Sahitya Akademi Agrahara Krishnamurthy, and chairman of Kannada Development Authority Purushottama Bilimale.

Mr. Sail served in the Indian Army and participated in the Indo-Pak War in 1965. He also served in the United Nations Peacekeeping Force on the Israel-Egypt border in 1964-65. After his military service, he worked in the postal department.

Mr. Sail's first novel, *Kaali Ganga*, was published in 1996 and it was based on the lives of farmers along Kali river in Karwar. Some of his well-known works include *Hawthan*, *Paltadcho Munis*, *Yug Sanvar* and *Vikhar Vilkho*.

Many of his novels and short stories have been translated into English and Hindi.

The award carries a purse of ₹5 lakh and a silver medal. The award will be presented at Kuppali, on December 29, Kuvempu's birth anniversary.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Cost approved for expanding the Pune metro under Phase-2

9,858 In crore. The Union Cabinet approved expanding the Pune Metro network at a cost of ₹9,858 crore. The approval covers Line 4 and 4A under Phase-2, spanning 31.6 km with 28 elevated stations linking major IT hubs and residential clusters. PTI

The monthly aid promised to poor women in New Delhi

2,500 In ₹. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta reiterated that her government will deliver all poll promises, including the ₹2,500 monthly assistance and LPG cylinders for ₹500 for poor women along with one free cylinder during Holi and Deepawali. PTI

Value of meth tablets seized near India-Myanmar border

13.33 In ₹ crore. Meth-amphetamine tablets worth ₹13.33 crore were seized near the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram's Champhai district, the Assam Rifles said on Wednesday. Around 4.44 kg of banned meth tablets were recovered. PTI

The worth of the alleged Andhra Pradesh liquor scam

3,500 In ₹ crore. The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim protection from surrender to three accused in the alleged ₹3,500 crore Andhra Pradesh liquor scam. The court questioned the need for custody given the lengthy witness list. PTI

Number of people killed in Thailand-Malaysia floods

34 Severe flooding across Thailand and Malaysia has killed at least 34 people and displaced tens of thousands. Thailand declared a state of emergency in Songkhla, where rains submerged homes, forcing over 10,000 residents to evacuate. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

How to navigate a complex global paradigm

In the tense relationship between the United States and China, Hong Kong emerges as a middle space — a vantage point from which to imagine a way forward. The city's unique position offers a metaphorical middle ground for dialogue, emphasising the need for new frameworks to navigate today's complex rivalries

A city of multitudes: The Hong Kong skyline in 2019. REUTERS

WORLD INSIGHT

Nirupama Rao

On November 17 and 18, 2025, Hong King hosted the sixth meeting of the China-United States Exchange Foundation (CUSEF), titled 'Circles for Peace'. Even though the U.S. and China remain locked in a tense, mistrustful relationship, they are also tied together more tightly than either side likes to admit. Here, Hong Kong, which has always lived between worlds, offers an uneasy middle space; a vantage point from which to imagine a way forward.

Complex rivalries

The discussions at the sixth U.S.-China Hong Kong Forum showed that trust had thinned, and that both the U.S. and China now operate as if expecting sudden shocks. Participants spoke with candour, and with a sense of fatigue. Old frameworks such as engagement, "guardrails", and managed competition no longer felt adequate for today's complex rivalry.

A persistent theme was the shrinking room for nuance. Strategic anxieties that once belonged to specialists have entered the public sphere, shaping domestic politics and narrowing the range of acceptable positions. It has also seeped into the human dimension of the relationship. American student numbers in China are far below pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels, and Chinese student enrolments in the U.S., once well above three lakh, have also declined. The deeper loss is familiarity – younger generations are encountering each other through narratives shaped by fear rather than through lived experience. Even though Presidents of both the nations anchor the relationship, personality-driven diplomacy is not enough in today's world.

Further, technology, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) were the biggest topics of conversations. It was observed that AI now resembles an international public good – too consequential to be monopolised or monetised by any single country. A credible governance regime, participants said, must rest on equity, transparency and accountability. This, however, brought up broader concerns about the overlap between civilian innovation and defence applications, especially in parts of the private sector. There would be an eventual need for an international governance mechanism for AI, and possibly for space ("the galaxy") as well. For if competition moves beyond the earth, who determines the rules?

The wider diplomatic climate also featured in the discussions, with the Taiwan question being a key issue. China argued that the discussion had become overwhelmingly militarised, and warned that American policy appeared to be drifting towards what Beijing views as a "one China, one Taiwan" (a position which advocates for the independence of Taiwan) posture. New mechanisms and a new vocabulary are needed to deal with the issue before it hardens into confrontation by default. One question discussed was whether the U.S. and China are prepared for another EP-3 incident (in 2001) – an accidental collision at sea or in the air that could escalate before political systems can respond. The region needs a crisis-prevention mechanism insulated from political swings.

Singapore's former Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen offered the broadest frame. He described this period as a "dialectic moment", where competing pressures reshape the global order but outcomes remain uncertain. The U.S., Europe and China will inevitably influence the emerging structure, he said, but the rest of the world should not allow the global commons to become collateral damage in major-power rivalry. The world does not need another hegemon, it needs powers capable of co-organising the future.

Hong Kong's future depends on preserving its cosmopolitan function – its connectivity, and cultural hybridity that allow ideas to cross borders even when politics cannot

Hong Kong's role

Throughout the forum, Hong Kong was in focus. While the city's liminal geography stands out as a metaphor for the wider planetary condition, it is also becoming more China-centric, even as it tries to remain globally fluent. Its future depends on preserving its cosmopolitan function – its transparency, connectivity, and cultural hybridity that allow ideas to cross borders even when politics cannot. Hong Kong reminds one that the world's middle spaces still matter, revealing pathways that pure geopolitics often miss.

People-to-people ties emerged as a gentle theme of hope in the meeting. Participants noted that official relations may be strained, but human contact remains the ballast that prevents larger relationships from capsizing.

Hong Kong, despite the pressures of recent years, continues to make such exchanges possible.

Lessons for India

The conversations in the forum were a reminder that great-power relations may determine the climate of the world, but the weather is shaped by everyone else. India cannot control the forces buffeting the U.S.-China relationship, but can decide how to navigate them, and how to ensure that its own future is not written by default. Rigid binaries are unsustainable. India's task is not to imitate U.S. rhetoric nor to accept Chinese narratives at face value. It is to build domestic strength – technological, economic and institutional – to navigate a fractured world without losing strategic autonomy. The forum's emphasis on youth, cultural ties and the social contract around technology offered reminders that relationships are not made or unmade by summits alone. They are shaped by steady habits of engagement.

The shape of a new order

The clearest insight from the forum was that the U.S.-China relationship will not be restored to its old shape. The political atmospherics will remain turbulent. But the alternative to managed rivalry is not victory; it is a world of cascading risks – climate stress, pandemics, fragile supply chains, and polarised societies.

One participant put it simply that this was "A story we have to write together". The phrasing carries weight. It shifts the conversation from competition to stewardship, from ideology to survival. The next order, if it emerges at all, will depend less on grand bargains and more on practical cooperation on energy, health, finance, and AI governance.

As the forum ended and one stepped out into the evening, the view from the conference venue stayed, of a South China Sea almost motionless, and meditative, in quiet contrast to the anxieties that shape the region – a reminder of how places, like people, survive by embracing complexity and allowing themselves room to rethink. The U.S. and China will continue to compete, sometimes fiercely. The future needs steady hands to shape it.

India has its own long arc with China, marked by caution and conviction. Yet, in this moment of global uncertainty, the challenge for all three countries is the same: to choose responsibility over reflex, and to widen the narrow spaces where dialogue is still possible.

Hong Kong, in its imperfect, resilient way, showed that those spaces still exist.

Nirupama Rao is Foreign Secretary (retired) and Founder-Trustee, The South Asian Symphony Foundation

THE GIST

- The discussions at the sixth U.S.-China Hong Kong Forum showed that trust had thinned, and that both the U.S. and China now operate as if expecting sudden shocks.
- Hong Kong reminds one that the world's middle spaces still matter, revealing pathways that pure geopolitics often miss.
- The clearest insight from the forum was that the U.S.-China relationship will not be restored to its old shape. The political atmospherics will remain turbulent.

Three killed in separate accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 22-year-old businessman was killed and a pillion rider sustained serious injuries in a hit-and-run accident on Kunigal-Nelamangala flyover early on Wednesday.

According to the police, Swaroop Kumar who was driving the bike was killed on the spot and Manasi, 19, a BCom student riding pillion, sustained serious injuries and was admitted to a hospital and is in a critical condition.

The duo was returning to the city from Tumakuru when an autorickshaw knocked them down. Due to the impact, they fell and a vehicle ran over them. The Nelamangala Traffic Police have registered a case against the autorickshaw driver and are verifying CCTV camera footage to identify the vehicle.

In another incident, two people were killed after a lorry crashed into their tractor at Mallarabanawadi Cross in Nelamangala on Wednesday. The deceased have been identified as Premkumar and Ramesh, residents of Gudemaranahalli and who worked as labourers.

According to the police, at around 8.30 a.m. Ramesh was driving the tractor and he attempted to take a right turn on a busy stretch without indicating the same. The lorry driver crashed into the tractor at a high speed from the opposite direction.

Internal quota implemented in allotment of seats for PG medical, PG AYUSH courses

KEA Executive Director says it was also implemented during the recently held Karnataka State Eligibility Test

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A total of 777 students have applied for PG medical course, and 106 candidates have applied for PG AYUSH courses. FILE PHOTO

For the first time since the implementation of internal reservation among Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the State, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has taken steps to allocate seats for postgraduate (PG) medical and AYUSH courses based on internal reservation.

Following the H.N. Nagamohan Das report being submitted to the government on August 4, 2025, the State Cabinet accepted the report with modifications and issued an order to implement internal reservation among SCs grouping the communities into three categories - Category A (16 castes, 6%), Category B (19 castes, 6%), and Category C (63 castes, 5%).

However, its implementation was delayed due to the non-distribution of caste certificates with the subgroups mentioned, denying opportunities for aspirants for government jobs and admission to educational institutions. *The Hindu* had reported on the same on October 4, 2025, following which the government had ordered on October 8, 2025, to issue caste certificates reflecting the category of the SCs the candidate belongs to. SC candidates were advised by KEA to obtain (SC-A, SC-B, SC-C) caste certificates containing internal reservation details with Revenue Document (RD) number printed from their respective tahsildars and submit them by November 26.

By the end of Wednesday, a total of 883 SC candidates have submitted caste certificates with their subgroups clearly mentioned for admission to PG Medical and PG AYUSH courses. A total of 777 students have applied for PG medical courses - SC-A (184 candidates), SC-B (331 candidates), and SC-C (262 candidates), and 106 candidates - SC-A (31 candidates), SC-B (34 candidates), and SC-C (41 candidates) - have applied for PG AYUSH courses.

"For the first time after the government order implementing internal reservation, we have taken steps to allocate seats for PG Medical and PG AYUSH courses under internal reservation. As many students complained that they were yet to get caste certificates reflecting the SC subgroup from tahsildars, we had extended the time to submit the same to implement internal reservation in seat allotment," said H. Prasanna, Executive Director, KEA.

Mr. Prasanna further said that internal reservation was also implemented during the recently held Karnataka State Eligibility Test (KSET).

"We have also issued notification for recruitment for nine other departments, in all of which we have implemented internal reservation," he said.

Businessman booked in dowry death case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A case of attempt to murder too has been filed against Basavaraju and his father based on the victim's statement

The Attibele police have registered a case of dowry death against a city-based businessman and his father for allegedly killing his wife by injecting mercury ten months ago, following which she succumbed at Victoria hospital on Tuesday.

The deceased, identified as Vidya M., was married to Basavaraju M. five years ago, and the couple had a four-year-old son. Basavaraju allegedly harassed and mistreated her from their initial days of marriage.

In a video statement before her death, the deceased alleged that her husband used to lock her up in their house and tell neighbours that she was mentally ill. She claimed that on February 26, 2025, Basavaraju injured her right leg while she was sleeping at night. The next day, she went to the doctor, who, after examination, advised her to undergo further tests, which confirmed the presence of mercury in her body.

The doctor advised immediate treatment. Even though she was under treatment, the victim's kidney was affected, and she underwent dialysis in March this year. After her condition worsened, she was admitted to the Victoria hospital, where the Attibele police, based on a medico-legal case, registered a case of attempt to murder against Basavaraju and his father Mariswamachar after recording the statement of the victim, a day before she succumbed.

The police are now awaiting a *post-mortem* report for further investigation.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
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EXAMINATION SECTION

ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 330/2025

F.No./AIIMS/E.S./34-95/25/DHR-BRET 2025 **21.11.2025**

DHR-Biomedical Research Eligibility Test (DHR-BRET-2025)

In reference to Notice No. 329/2025 30.10.2025 it is hereby informed that the last date of online registration of DHR-Biomedical Research Eligibility Test (DHR-BRET-2025) has been extended till 08th December 2025 (upto 05:00 pm). Revised schedule is as follows:

Online Registration for application	Start date	Closing Date
Online Registration for application	01.11.2025	08.12.2025 (by 5.00 pm)
Status of Registration and last date of correction of rejected Images/incorrect registration details	11.12.2025	13.12.2025 (by 5.00 pm)
Uploading of admit card on AIIMS website	Will be declared later	
Date of Examination	Will be declared later	

Please visit the website **www.aiimsexams.ac.in** regularly for all the latest updates and detailed information.

cbc17112/12/0053/2526 **ASSTT. CONTROLLER (EXAMS)**

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425) (A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
Address: SUDA Bhawan, 7/23, Sector-7, Gomati Nagar Extension, Lucknow

Advertisement S. No. UPMSCL/HR/2025-26/1186 Date: 26/11/2025

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited invites application for the following position on Deputation / Contractual:

Sr. No.	Designation	Maximum Age Limit (In year)	Vacancy	Category	Mode of Recruitment	Essential Qualification & Desirable Qualification	Honoraria in INR (Monthly)	Post Qualification Experience
1	General Manager (Equipment Procurement)	45	1	UR.	Deputation/ Contractual	Applicant must have full time Electrical/Electronics / Bio Medical Engineer Degree from UGC recognized Indian University **Desirable Qualification-** 1 Post Graduate degree or diploma in business management from a recognised institution /University 2. Certificate /Diploma in procurement /Supply chain Management or related fields	(78,800-1,40,000) Pay matrix-12 (in case of Deputation)	1. Applicant must have minimum 8 years of post qualification of which of which at least 5 years of experience in procurement of medical equipment for public agencies 2. Minimum 3 years of supervisory experience

Interested Candidates must send their application form in the prescribed format along with self attested relevant document by speed post/registered AD from Indian Postal Department by mentioning on the envelop "Application for the (Post Name)" to, GM (AHL), SUDA Bhawan 7/23 sector -7 Gomti nagar extension, Lucknow PIN:226010. Applications sent by any other mode shall not be entertained. Submission of Application Starts from November27, 2025. The Last Date of Submission of Application is December 26, 2025 at 05:00 PM.* Regular government (Department/Corporations/Institutions) employees with suitable experience on seniority (matrix level) are encouraged to apply on deputation. * Vacancies shall be subject to the State reservation policy of Uttar Pradesh. *Candidate Applying on Deputation shall be in accordance with Govt. of UP Service Norms* Please note July 01, 2025 shall be taken as a reference date for computing age, qualification, experience etc. Application not received on prescribed format will be rejected. Application format may be download from the website:- www.upmsc.in

Managing Director, UPMSCL

For vacancy notification and other related detailed information please visit www.upmsc.in

Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender No: SBC-GSU-ENGG-2025-04

The undersigned, on behalf of President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru Contonment-Whitefield Quadrupling - Balance works of (1) Re-construction of Bridge No.835B FOB with Gangway-1 at ch:344876.000 & Gangway-2 at ch:344795.000 duly dismantling the existing FOB at ch:344886.750 in Baiyyappanahalli Yard. (2). Construction of FOB with Gangway at ch:344487 in Baiyyappanahalli yard. (3). Dismantling and Reconstruction of platform shelter at Baiyyappanahalli yard.	Rs. 23,61,03,961.14/-

Last date of submission of bid **15:00 hrs. of 12.12.2025**

For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, Bengaluru
PUB/683/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Mr.Jayaprakash C/o Mrs.Prema C** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mr.Satish Shankar S/o Late K Shankar and Mrs.Nithya Satish W/o Mr.Satish Shankar** ; person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing **Site No.33,** BBMP Old e-PID No.2325223794 formed in Converted land bearing Survey No.79, B.B.M.P Katha No.1, situated at **GREEN GARDEN PHASE III, Kalkere Channasandra Village, K.R.Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk,** measuring East to West **50 Feet,** North to South **30 Feet,** in all totally measuring **1500 Sq.Ft.,** Presently the property is coming under the limits of (BBMP) and bounded on : **East by : Site No.18; West by : Road; North by : Site No.34; South by : Site No.32;**

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5. Rules 20 of the Code of Civil Procedures)
CS (COMM) 1305/2024
THE INDIAN EXPRESS PRIVATE LIMITED
VS
THINK AND LEARN PRIVATE LIMITED
TO
THINK AND LEARN PRIVATE LIMITED (Through its Board of Directors/ Managing Director Mr Byju Raveendran), IBC Knowledge Park, 4/1, 2nd Floor Tower D, Bannerghatta Main Road, Bangalore, Karnataka 560029 **Mobile: 9880031619, 8066836800,** Emails: legal@byjus.com; info@byjus.com Also at: No. 43, Yoganarasimha, 14th Main, 15th Cross, BDA Complex HSR Layout, Sector-4, Bangalore-560102.

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summon it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the **23.12.2025** the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this **14.11.2025**

District Judge, Commercial Court -07 (Central), Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Tenders for the following works:

E-Tender Notice No. 27-CWM-UBLS-2025-26 Dated: 18-11-2025

Item of Work	Approx. Value
Conversion of NMG coaches and ICF coaches into NMGHS Coaches at Carriage Repair Workshop,Hubballi.	Rs. 2,96,12,880.96 (Incl of GST)

Last date for submission of bid is: **upto 15:00 hrs. on 09-12-2025**

E-Tender Notice No. 28-CWM-UBLS-2025-26 Dated: 18-11-2025

Item of Work	Approx. Value
Conversion of 06 Nos of ICF BG coaches into ART/ARME Coaches at Carriage Repair Workshop, Hubballi.	Rs. 14,98,093.73 (Incl of GST)

Last date for submission of bid is: **upto 17:00 hrs. on 09-12-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Keep visiting the website for any corrigendum till closing date

Deputy Chief Workshop Manager Hubballi
PUB/677/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

Bank of Baroda
Peenya II Stage Branch
#3/1/A, NH-4, Tumkur Road, Peenya II Stage, Bengaluru-560058

NOTICE TO BORROWERS/GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS
(UNDER SUB-SECTION (2) OF SECTION 13 OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002)

'At your request, Bank has extended credit facilities to the below mentioned individuals against secured assets through its **Bank of Baroda, Peenya II Stage Branch** The relevant particulars of the property on which you have created security interest by execution of security agreement/documents & creation of mortgage by way deposit of title deeds are furnished hereunder. As the operation and conduct of the financial assistance/ credit facilities have become irregular, the debt has been classified as Non Performing Assets in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India consequent to the default committed by the borrowers in repayment of the principal debt and interest thereon. As the demand notice sent by Speed Post AD calling upon you, was unserved/not acknowledged, this publication is now issued.

1. Name and Address of the Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors:
1. Smt. Annapurna H Pujar W/o Sri. Balaji. R, KGF Main Road, S. G Kote Post, Bangarpet, Kolar Dist-563114. **Also at:** C/o Dr. Sindhe Himsain Rao, H. No. 103, 6th Cross, 8th Main, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru. **2. Sri. Balaji. R** S/o Sri. Radhakrishnaiah Setty, KGF Main Road, S. G Kote Post Bangarpet, Kolar Dist-563114. **Also at:** Flat No. 304, L1 B1, Karnataka Housing Board, Surya Nagar 1st Phase, CHS Hosur Road, Chandapura, Bengaluru.

Nature and type of facility	Limit	O/s as on 17.11.2025 (exclusive of interest upto 25.01.2024)
Housing Loan A/c No: 89410600001416	Rs.6,39,000/-	Rs.4,62,196.70
Savings Bank A/c No. 89410100040846	Nill	Rs.11,580.67

Amount Outstanding : Rs.4,73,777.37 (Rupees Four Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Seven and Paise Thirty Seven Only) as on **17.11.2025** along with the further interest from **25.01.2024.**

NPA Date : 25.01.2024 **Demand Notice Date : 18.11.2025**

Security agreement with brief description of securities

Schedule 'A' Property: All that piece and parcel of property/land in the layout formed by the Karnataka Housing Board, situated at Suryanagar Project, in land bearing various survey Nos of Iggaluru-Banahalli of Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, measuring approximately 283 Acres and acquired under three notifications viz., KA GRU MUM/BHOO SVAA VI 1/15/98:99 dated 14.1.1999, KA GRU MUM/BHOO SVAA VI 1/13/98:99 dated 14.1.1999, and KA GRU MUM/BHOO SVAA VI 2/90:91 dated 10.10.1990, measuring East to West 21.33 Meters and North to South 36 Meters, totally measuring 767.88 Square Meters and bounded on the: East by: Block No.2 LIG TYPE-1, West by: Road, North by: Road, South by: Road.

Schedule 'B' Property: The vendor having sold 1/(15 Flats + 1 shop) i.e., {(767.88 / 932.35) x 61.35} = 50.52 Square Meters undivided interest in all of the above property to the purchaser.

Schedule 'C' Property: All those premises being a Residential Apartment / Apartment /Tenement bearing No 304 on the 3rd Floor of Block No 01, LIG TYPE-1, consisting of 15 Flats and 1 Shop, residential apartments/ in the Multistoried Building/Block constructed on the property described in Schedule 'A' Property hereto (including one half portion in depth of the joints between the ceiling of the apartment and floor of the apartment above it and termal wall and external wall between such levels) standing in the name of Smt. Annapurna H Pujar W/o Sri. Balaji. R and bounded on the: East by: Flat No.301 L1 B2, West by: Flat No.301 L1 B1, North by: Flat No.303 L1 B1, South by: Open to Sky.

If you fail to repay the aforesaid sum with interest and incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub section (4) of the section 13 of the SARFAESI Act. You are also put on notice that in terms of sub section 13 of section 13, you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed above without obtaining written consent of the Bank. This notice is without prejudice to the Bank's rights to initiate such other action or legal proceedings as it deems necessary under any other applicable provisions of law.

Date : 26.11.2025 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **Bank of Baroda**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. B/TRD.2025-26/28 Dated : 19-11-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Provision of SSP at Banaswadi and modification of SSP at Baiyyappanahalli Cabin	Rs. 2,15,57,534.08

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 12-12-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD Bengaluru
PUB/675/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2025-26/65 Dated: 18-11-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Pandavapura - Construction of new designated building of RPF Outpost at Pandavapura (PANP).	Rs. 6,29,203/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 10-12-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer General / Mysuru
PUB/674AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

DhanlaxmiBank established 1927

Saishran Skies, G-AC-434, 2nd Block, Below Cult Fitness, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru-560043, Landline: +91 80 25454323,
E-Mail Id: dlb.hrbrbangalore@dhanbank.co.in Website: www.dhan.bank.in
Regional Office: Hyderabad, Telangana Corporate Office: Thrissur, Kerala

APPENDIX-IV-A [See proviso to rule 8 (6)]

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of The Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd. Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 29.12.2025 for recovery of **Rs. 7,48,56,624.91 (Rupees Seven Crores Forty Eight Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Four and paise Ninety One Only)** as on 19.11.2025 due to Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd, Secured Creditor from **(1) M/s. Bijith International Builders,** represented by its Prop: **Mr. T.U. Balan,** No. G1, Bank Avenue (Bijith Towers) 7th Cross, Nanjappa Garden, Kalyan Nagar, Babusapalaya, Bangalore-560 043 and **(2) Smt. Shoba Balan,** W/o Sri T.U .Balan & **(3) Sri. Subith Balan,** S/o. Sri.T.U.Balan, all residing at 601, Bank Avenue, Bijith Towers, 7th cross, Nanjappa Garden, Kalyan Nagar, Babusapalya, Bangalore-560043 and also at: Sy. No. 57/1, 57/, Engadiyur Village, Chavakkad Taluk, Thrissur District, Kerala.

The reserve price will be as follows:

Sl. No	Description of the of the Property Proposed for Sale	Reserve Price (Rs)
1	25.94 Cents (10.50 Are) of Residential land and building at Survey Number 57/1, No.4/210/C, Chavakkad Thaluk, Engandiyur village, Thrissur District, Kerala State in the name of T.U.Balan.	Reserve Price Rs. 1,57,40,000/- Earnest money deposit Rs.15,74,000/-
2	Residential flat of 1379 sq.ft at flat No.109 at Bijith Classic, K. Narayanapura Main Road, Christu Jayanthi College, Kothanur PO, Bangalore in the name of T.U. Balan.	Reserve Price Rs. 57,26,000/- Earnest money deposit Rs. 5,72,600/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Dhanlaxmi Bank's website i.e. www.dhan.bank.in.

Place : Hyderabad **Authorized Officer**
Date : 19.11.2025 **Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd.**

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
E-TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works. **Tender Notice No.:** 17-2025-SrDENCo **Name of Work:** 1-Extension of PF-1, Improvement to PF surface, Augmentation of water stands for crowd management at JEUR Station. 2-Improvement to PF Surface (PF 1&2 and PF 3&4), Provision of retiring rooms, Provision of COP at PF 1&2, RPF post at PF-1, Toilet blocks at PF 1&2, SS Benches at KWV Station. 3-CROWD MANAGEMENTRaising PF-2 (ML to HL), Toilet blocks at PF-01, Augmentation of booking office at UMD Station. **Approximate Cost of the work:** Rs. 186239778.25 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1081200.00 **Completion period of the work:** 12 Months **Maintenance Period:** 24 Months **Tender Notice No.:** 18-2025-SrDENCO **Name of Work:** 1-Provision of Cover shed with proper fencing, Drinking water facility & other amenities during festival season for crowd management at Solapur station. 2- Carriage watering facility & Provision of holding area with all passenger amenities for crowd management at KLBG station. **Approximate Cost of the work:** Rs. 151432156.61 **Earnest Money:** Rs. 907200.00 **Completion period of the work:** 12 Months **Maintenance Period:** 24 Months **Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website** 16/12/2025 upto 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in** 16/12/2025 at 15.30 hrs. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in.** ANJ-68

अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL, that my client is intend to purchase the property mentioned infra from his owner G.DHANAMMA w/o G.PEDDAVENKATAPPA. If any person or persons asserting any right, title, interest or claim by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise in the schedule property or any part thereof or having any kind of claims thereon or having any kind of claim against the documents of title or the owners, should write to the undersigned within fifteen days (15 Days) under regd. post with a/d from the date of issuance of this notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to the schedule property or any part thereof, In the event, such claims are not lodged with us within the stipulated time, it will be presumed that the schedule property is free from any claim/s, after which period our client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regard to the schedule property and my client will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the schedule property without being liable for any claim put forth thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Property Bearing Site No.3, Formed In Converted Lands In Survey No.39/p22-p1, Old No.39, Present Panchayath Raj (RDPR) Katha Property Bearing No.253, Old Composite Panchayath Katha No.253, E-property I.d. No.150300201500600357, Of Nellur Village, Channarayapatna Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru, Measuring East To West on The Northern Side 81 Feet 3 Inches, on The Southern Side 80 Feet 9 Inches and North To South on The Eastern Side 72 Feet And on The Western Side 97 Feet 6 Inches And Bounded on East by: Site No.2, West by : Site No.4, North by : Government Road (national Highway-207), South by : Balepura Muninarayanappa's Land

BASAVARAJU .B.N, Advocate
#No.51, Brundavana, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, NTY Layout, Raghavanagara, Bangalore-560 026.
Mob: 9845954200/9901133687,
Date: 27-11-2025

FORM NO. 14
[See Regulation 33(2)]

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE, DEPTT. OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNBAL - 2, BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.

TRC No. 9 / 2019

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK
No. 218, 9th Cross, J.P. Nagar, II Phase, KSRTC Layout, Bengaluru - 560 078. **... Certificate Holder**
Versus
Sri P. Roshan & Others **... Defendants**

DEMAND NOTICE

1. Sri P. Roshan S/o. Sri Paramashivaiah
No. 48, 2nd Main Road, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru - 560 003.
2. Smt. Manjula .M D/o. Sri Miryam Balaiah
Residing at No. 20, Vinayaka Layout, Srinivasapura, Kogilu Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064.
3. Sri Santosh .C.N. S/o. Sri C.N. Neelakantappa
No. 48, 2nd Main Road, Palace Guttahalli, Bengaluru - 560 003.
... Defendants

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **OA : 579 / 2017** passed by the **Hon'ble Presiding Officer, DRT, Bangalore on 14-11-2018 an amount of Rs. 2,21,16,054/- (Rupees Two Crore Twenty One Lakh(s) Sixteen Thousand Fifty Four Only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization of the Recovery Certificate.

In addition to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay all charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the amount within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, **on 03rd Day of April 2019.**

RECOVERY OFFICER - 1
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 2
BENGALURU

Note : Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below :

"Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

(2) Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

(3) You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 year.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP(CMG)
ISRO Headquarters, Antariksh Bhavan,
New BEL Road, Bengaluru-560 094.
Ph: 080-22172476/2033/5641 Fax No.: 080-2351 3126

E-TENDER NOTICE

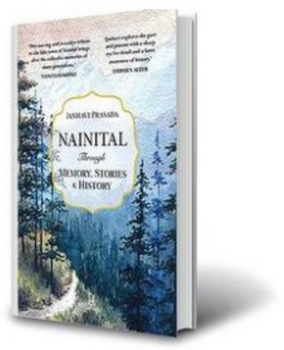
On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following work:

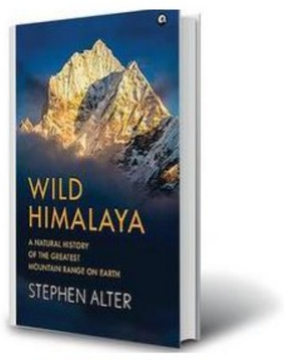
Title of Work	**Modification of Ground Water recharge pond at Antariksh Bhavan, Bengaluru.**
e-Tender Notice No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/M/17/P/AB/ 2025-26 dated 25.11.2025**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 19.30 Lakhs**
Period of Completion	**Two (02) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From **18:10 hrs on 25.11.2025** To: **23:59 hrs on 04.12.2025**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**up to 11:30 hrs on 08.12.2025**
Due date & time of opening of tenders (Technical Bid)	**12:00 hrs on 08.12.2025**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 38,600/-**

For eligibility criteria and other details, Interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi/ English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on website **https://isro.gov.in/tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://tenderwizard.com/ISRO**. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and tender documents may be downloaded from e-tendering website **https://tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head, CMD, ISRO HQ

BIBLIOGRAPHY





Clear contrast: A view of the snow covered Himalayas, as seen from Shimla, in 2022. PTI

Why telling stories from the Himalaya is 'an argument against extinction'

Stephen Alter, who recently won the Himalayan Echoes Nature Prize, has often put the young, fold mountains at the centre of his writing. Other chroniclers, from Peter Matthiessen to Namita Gokhale, have written about the reality of living in a region which inspires both awe and fear

Sudipta Datta

Writer and naturalist Stephen Alter has been honoured with the inaugural Radisson Himalayan Echoes Nature Prize 2025 for his contribution to Himalayan literature and conservation. Alter has often put the Himalaya at the centre of his books, and it's the perfect time to read up on the world's tallest mountain range on earth, and why as Alter contends, the focus must not be on altitude alone.

In his *Wild Himalaya: A Natural History of the Greatest Mountain Range* (Aleph), he says that at times, "these mountains seem almost alive for they are always changing." The Himalaya, he notes, contains places of terrifying beauty, vertiginous terrain and extremes of weather that inspire both awe and fear. Alter maps the Himalaya, which spans a distance of roughly 2,500 kilometres in length and between 350 and 150 kilometres in breadth and stretches across five nations – China, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

Over eight sections, Alter goes through the origins of the range, its weather systems, flora and fauna, expeditions of other mountaineers and travellers, and myths and legends associated with the mountains. For him, the simple act of retelling these stories becomes an affirmation of nature's diversity and an argument against extinction.

Goat dung 'soft as a mattress'

In the section, 'Flora Himalensis', he "stalks" the carnivorous sundew or the Drosera peltata at the Jabarkhet Nature Reserve near Landour in Uttarakhand. Drosera means "dew of the sun" and it gets this name, says Alter, because the mucilage on its leaves is similar to tiny drops of dew. The saliva-like substance traps insects, and after the victim is captured, the leaf closes around it and consumes the insects.

He writes about encountering a tiger barely 10 metres away on the banks of the Ram Ganga river in Corbett National Park and sleeping on a "layer of goat dung, 15 cm deep and soft as a foam mattress" at Shingo La in Ladakh while trekking through Zanskar Valley.

On the eastern flank of the mountain range, he spots blood pheasants in Kanchenjunga, the takin, an animal related to goat antelopes, in Bhutan, and black-necked migrating cranes at Phobjhika. Amid the treasure trove, are photographs, say of the magnolia blooming in Arunachal Pradesh and the Machapuchere at sunset, and the books trail he leaves, from George Schaller's *Tibet Wild*, Maharaj K. Pandit's *Life in the Himalaya: An Ecosystem at Risk*, D.N. Wadia's *Geology of India*, *Asia ke Peeth Par* (On the Shoulders of Asia) by Shekhar Pathak and Uma Bhatt and many others.

Alter mentions Schaller's "special affinity" for snow leopards, the highest roaming of the big cats. Schaller had once come face-to-face with a snow leopard that left him with a "haunting sense of its elusive beauty and the way in which it seemed to dissolve into rocks and snow."

Elusive leopards

Leopards find place in Janhavi Prasada's wonderful new book, *Nainital Through Memory, Stories & History* (Roli Books). Walking in the scenic hillsides across the Himalaya region "calls for the alertness of a leopard," she says. In the forest, keep talking – even if it means talking to yourself, she advises, because the murmur keeps lurking wild animals at bay. "Unlike the tiger which kills in daylight, leopards fear humans in the day, but after dark they prowl in search of prey." In the hills, not a day goes by without mentioning a leopard.

In 'Faces of Nainital: Past and Present', we run into Corbett, the Bakshis who came from Pakistan, four prominent Parsi families, Mrs. Bastien, the last Anglo-Indian in town, others from the Christian community, the women from the mountains, icons like Sundar Lal Bahuguna, and Shekhar Pathak who has "dedicated his life to understanding the past, present and future of the Himalaya." He is trekking the same trail for the third time to catalogue the river paths of the Himalaya, "an exercise done every decade to study the impact of climate change over the years." Digvijay Singh's illustrations add to this profile of a town's layered history and culture.

The many raconteurs of the Himalaya, from Peter Matthiessen, Bill Aitken, Ruskin Bond to Anuradha Roy, Namita Gokhale, Manjushree Thapa and Bulbul Sharma, have written about the reality of life in the mountains. In *Himalaya: Adventures, Meditations, Life* (Speaking Tiger), edited by Bond and Gokhale, Bond writes in the Preface that living in the mountains is not a romance for everyone. "Even so, the mountains have become very personal to me, as they have to other writers who have made their homes here [in the Himalaya]." The Himalaya's foremost teaching? Bond says it's perhaps humility; "We know that just living, and helping our fellow creatures through life, is enough; it is greater than any art."

Women of the hills

The last in the excellent Zubaan series on lives of women in the Northeast features writings from Sikkim and Darjeeling Hills. *Beneath Magnolia Skies*, edited by Mona Chettri and Prava Rai, includes the voices of homemakers, students, teachers, professionals, artists who ask pertinent questions, as articulated by the editors. "As Himalayan women move between tradition and modernity, how do culture, tradition, and patriarchy reconcile with their futures?; What shapes and forms do inequality, violence, and prejudice take? How do culture, politics, and society make them invisible? How do women claim space, agency, and voice within a society that keeps them marginalised?"

Anshu Chettri wonders why we seldom see women loitering around alone, as she goes walking around the Himalayan town of Kalimpong. She relishes her freedom to walk at her own pace. The town made her aware of its struggles like the water scarcity in almost every household.

Talking to *The Hindu* about his book *Himalaya: Exploring the Roof of the World* (Bloomsbury), John Keay said the Himalaya region is a distinct eco-zone and must be protected. Alter is disturbed at seeing hundreds of greater adjutant storks perched on huge piles of burning rubbish on the outskirts of Guwahati. "...the grim birds look like creatures out of an apocalyptic image."

Learn from the mountains, urges Gokhale. "...what remains in the end is the sense of intimacy, the exhilaration, and yes, the desolation, of these rugged mountains, the 'self born mockers of man's enterprise'."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on Indians who have had features on extraterrestrial bodies named after them

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

This week, the International Astronomical Union decided that a 3.5-billion-year-old crater on Mars will be named for the first Indian who served as the director of the Geological Survey of India. He was also the first director of the Indian School of Mines. Name him.

QUESTION 2

This Indian physicist from Hooghly district was known for his studies of light under C.V. Raman's guidance and on radiophysics with Camille Gutton. He was instrumental in including wireless science as a higher education subject in India, and has a crater on the moon's far side named for him. Who is he?

QUESTION 3

Homi Jehangir Bhabha has a 64-km-wide crater named for him on the moon's far side. The crater is of scientific interest because the impact that formed it penetrated deep into the floor of the basin its located in. Name this famous basin.

QUESTION 4

This astronomer hailed from near present-day Patna in Bihar and is noted for estimating the value of pi with an accuracy high for his time; for his study of Diophantine equations; and for his studies of the epicycles of motion governing the planets, among others. For his efforts, he has both a (human-made) satellite and a lunar crater in the Mare Tranquillitatis. Name him.

QUESTION 5

This physicist born in Varanasi in 1929 was best known for founding and developing the field that uses isotopes produced by cosmic rays, for example, in rocks and ice, to trace rates of erosion, sediment transport, and other planetary processes over long periods. In 2024, a 65-km-wide crater on Mars was named in his honour. Name him.

Visual question:
Name this physicist; a crater named for him on the moon is one of the proposed locations of a future lunar radio telescope.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The date on which the Constituent Assembly first met. **Ans: December 9, 1946**
2. The President of the Constituent Assembly when the Constitution was adopted. **Ans: Dr. Rajendra Prasad**
3. The number of members who signed the handwritten original of the Constitution of India. **Ans: 284 members**
4. The time taken for the Constituent Assembly to draft and adopt the Constitution. **Ans: 2 years, 11 months, and 18 days**
5. The reason why January 26, 1950 is significant in relation to the Constitution. **Ans: It was the date chosen for the Constitution's commencement, honouring the 1930 Purna Swaraj declaration**
Visual: Identify the image and its location in the original Constitution. **Ans: The zebu bull, a Mohenjodaro seal from the Indus Valley Civilisation, reproduced at the head of Part I of the Constitution, which deals with the Union and its territories**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Mohan Lal Patel| Suchit Narottam| Erfanally Oosmany| Dodo Jayaditya

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Why the long face? Did your school lose yesterday?"

"Yes. It was so disappointing. We were so close to winning. In fact, we were neck to neck, but unfortunately, we..."

"... you were not 'neck to neck,' but 'neck and neck.' Do you know what the expression means?"

"I think I do. Doesn't it mean 'level' or something like that?"

"The expression is used when you are talking about a race or a contest of some kind. When you say that the two contestants are neck and neck, it means that neither has the advantage nor the lead. The two..."

"... have equal chances of winning."

"Exactly! Here's an example. It's difficult to say who will win the election. The two candidates are neck and neck with 400 votes each."

"Gopa and Sal were neck and neck.."

"... ah Gopa! That boy can really run."

"Yes, he is really fast."

"But he is dead from the neck up."

"Dead from the neck up? How can anybody be dead from..."

"... when you say that somebody is dead from the neck up, it means that he/she is really stupid. It's an informal expression."

"I see. There are times when I think that some of my cousins are dead from the neck up. Can I say that?"

"I haven't met too many of your cousins. But I guess your example is O.K. I am sure that many of your friends think that you are dead from the neck up."

"They would have to be dead from the neck up to think that!"

"My! My! If your friends come to know what you think of them, you will get it in the neck."

"Get what in the neck?"

"The expression 'get it in the neck' means to receive punishment or criticism. For example, I got it in the neck for being late to office this morning."

"Meaning that your boss scolded you for being late?"

"That's right!"

"I got it in the neck for breaking the neighbour's window. Does it sound O.K.?"

"Sounds fine. Here's another example. Our Accounts Officer is likely to get it in the neck pretty soon."

"Why? What has he done?"

"He's been very irregular. He says his daughter is in hospital. But I don't..."

"... before I forget, did you manage to meet Sujatha yesterday?"

"No, I didn't. But I did call her up this morning. She sounded terrible. She told me that her nose was gummed up."

"Her nose was gummed up? You mean that she applied gum to her nose?"

"No, no. When you say that your eyes and nose are gummed up, it means that your eyes and nose are full of mucus."

"... that sounds terrible. If your eyes are full of mucus, you will have problems opening your eyes."

"Exactly! And if your nose is 'gummed up,' you will have problems breathing. I didn't call my parents last week because my nose was gummed up."

"The child was breathing through his mouth because his nose was gummed up. Does that sound O.K.?"

"Sounds fine."

Published in The Hindu on October 19, 1998.

Word of the day

Esoteric:
confined to and understandable by only an enlightened inner circle

Usage: *This is a compilation of esoteric philosophical theories.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/esotericpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌiː.səʊˈtɛɹ.ɪk/

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A BG-BGE

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a meeting with the Joint Action Committee of the KSRTC Corporations' Trade Unions at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

RTC unions meet CM, seek to pay revision, release of arrears

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Joint Action Committee (JAC) of transport corporation employees met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Wednesday to press for the fulfilment of long-pending demands, including the release of arrears and a revision of pay.

Following the meeting, Anantha Subba Rao, president of the KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation, said the discussion with the Chief Minister lasted nearly an hour and was "positive and constructive". He added that the Chief Minister has asked the unions to hold another round of talks with Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on December 6 to address the pending issues in detail.

"We hope the meeting on December 6 will lead to a favourable outcome. The Chief Minister has assured us that the issues will be resolved after discussions with the Transport Minister," Mr. Rao said.

The demands by the JAC include the release of arrears and a comprehensive pay revision. The unions estimate that unpaid dues across the four Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) currently stand at ₹8,010 crore.

Among the major demands are an increase in staff allowances, upgraded medical facilities for employees, and the regularisation of drivers and technical workers who are presently hired on a contract basis. The unions have also insisted that only permanent corporation drivers be assigned to operate electric buses, arguing that employing contract staff for such operations compromises both safety and efficiency.

According to Mr. Rao, union leaders highlighted that transport workers have played a crucial role in implementing the government's welfare initiatives, particularly the 'Shakti Scheme', which has contributed significantly to public goodwill and boosted ridership.

In August, after a failed round of talks, the JAC had announced an indefinite strike. However, the protest was later withdrawn after being pulled up by the Karnataka High Court.

CCB arrests Mysuru couple in Nandini ghee racket case

The two had set up an advanced facility to prepare spurious products and had a network of distributors both in Karnataka and outside the State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Continuing investigations into the adulterated and Nandini ghee racket, officials of the Central Crime Branch have arrested a couple from Mysuru, alleged kingpins of the racket, which they were allegedly running for many years now.

The CCB officials, earlier this month, raided a Krishna Enterprises in Chamarajpet, the distribution unit of adulterated ghee being sold under the Nandini brand, and arrested four persons, including the owner, his son, and two of his employees, for supplying the substandard products to shops and commercial establishments.

The couple had set up a unit in Tamil Nadu, where they used substandard and adulterated products to prepare ghee on a large scale. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE

Based on the information provided by them, the sleuths raided a house in Mysuru and arrested the couple, identified as Shivakumar, 45, and his wife Ramya, 40, who are reportedly the kingpins of the racket.

According to the police, the couple had set up a unit in Tamil Nadu, where they used substandard and adulterated products to prepare ghee on a large scale and sold it under the brand name of Nandini. The unit was also printing stickers and packaging of the Nandini brand.

The couple had set up an advanced facility with an investment of several lakhs of rupees to prepare spurious products and had a network of distributors both in Karnataka and outside the State.

This is not only a loss to the State exchequer but also damaging the brand name of Nandini by selling sub-standard products in its brand name, a police officer said.

Habitual offenders

The accused are habitual offenders involved in a similar case and booked by Mysuru City police last year, a police officer said. The police have frozen the couple's bank accounts, and seized documents and other equipment to ascertain their network.

Karnataka Information Commission pulls up KMF officials over foreign trips

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Information Commission has pulled up officials of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) and the district milk unions for refusing to share information on their foreign trips, after the officers rejected Right to Information (RTI) applications by claiming that their institutions were not public authorities covered under the RTI Act, 2004. The order came in two related cases where the applicants were denied basic details of the trip.

According to the commission's order, the KMF officers had repeatedly declined to share the information sought by citizens under the RTI, arguing that they do not fall within the definition of a "public authority" and therefore are not required to respond under the RTI Act. The commission examined the matter and noted that KMF is a cooperative institution that receives substantial financial assistance from the state government, works under various government statutes, and performs functions that have a clear public character.

The commission also noted that when public funds or government-backed resources are involved, citizens have the right to know how the money is used. Such information, the commission observed, is expected to be available to citizens under the RTI Act, 2004.

The commission has directed the public information officers (PIOs) to provide the complete set of records asked in the RTI applications, including all documents related to the foreign tour, such as sanction letters, reasons for the visit, and cost details. The PIOs have been asked to report compliance to the commissioner after supplying the information.

Wipro partners with IISc to advance innovation in frontier technologies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A joint research programme will be established under the agreement

Wipro Ltd., an AI-powered technology services and consulting company, announced a strategic alliance with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID) to collaborate on cutting-edge research and innovation across frontier technologies.

These organisations are aiming to accelerate breakthroughs in areas like agentic AI, embodied AI, quantum AI, and quantum safe solutions, to help enterprises build more secure, adaptive, and autonomous digital operations, said Wipro in a statement.

Under the agreement, Wipro and IISc will establish a joint research programme focused on quantum computing, advanced AI models, secure digital infrastructure, and new approaches to autonomous networks.

The programme would bring together senior faculty, researchers, and scientists from IISc with Wipro's engineers, architects, and technologists.

The collaboration would also enhance Wipro's ability to deliver next-generation AI-powered capabilities across sectors such as telecom, manufacturing, financial services, and healthcare.

Sandhya Arun, chief technology officer, Wipro Ltd., said, "By combining the strengths of IISc in advanced technical research with Wipro's experience in applied innovation and industry solutions, we aim to address some of the most complex challenges and high-impact opportunities, that global enterprises face in an increasingly fast-evolving technology landscape."

'Partnership critical'

"Academia-industry collaboration is critical for solving complex scientific challenges and ensuring they create real-world value," said Rajesh Sundaresan, dean, Division of Electrical, Electronics and Computer Sciences (EECS), Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

According to Wipro, the partnership will help the company develop industry-ready platforms, scalable models, and new IP, which will be made available to clients on Wipro's WINGS and WEGA delivery platforms, industry-specific solutions, and innovation offerings as part of Wipro Intelligence. For IISc, the partnership supports an expanded research capacity, deeper industry validation, and opportunities for technology transfer and commercialisation.

From Page One

Cruelty charge can be invoked even in void or voidable marriage: HC

"If the petitioner's submission were to be accepted, it would produce a manifestly unjust and anomalous result – namely, that a man who deceives a woman into a void marriage by concealing his earlier marriage could then escape criminal liability under Section 498A merely because the relationship lacks legal validity. Such a position would not only defeat the purpose of the enactment but also encourage fraud and exploitation of women under the guise of invalid marital relationships. The courts cannot countenance such a perverse consequence," the court observed.

No evading responsibility

When a man induces a woman to believe that she is lawfully married to him, and thereafter subjects her to cruelty, such a man cannot be permitted to evade criminal responsibility on the plea that no valid marriage existed in law, the court said.

In the present case, the court noted that the petitioner and the complainant lived together in a relationship having all the trappings of a marital union; and they cohabited, represented themselves as husband and wife, and performed domestic and social obligations typically associated with marriage attracting the protective umbrella of Section 498A.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮುಕ್ತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕರಾಮುವಿ/ಯುಇಡಿ/ FDC/ 55/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:21.11.2025
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕುಲಸಚಿವ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮುಕ್ತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ, ಮುಕ್ತಗಂಗೋತ್ರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇವರು ವಿವಿನಿಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರ ಮೂಲಕ ಭದ್ರತಾ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಮತ್ತು ವಿವಿನಿಲಯದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಮತ್ತು ರಾಜ್ಯದ ವಿವಿಧ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಶೌಚಾಲಯಗಳ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಂಬಂಧದ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಈ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಅರ್ಹ ಫರ್ಮ್‌ರವರು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ನವೀಕೃತ KPPP ನ (Version-2: kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುತ್ತದ್ದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ವಿ.ವಿ.ನಿಲಯದ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಅನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ KPPP ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **22.12.2025**ರ ಸಂಜೆ **05:00** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
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ಸಹಿ/–
ಕುಲಸಚಿವ
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/1285/2025–26 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮುಕ್ತ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ

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No. EE(VJN)/TEND/KPPP/10/2025-26 Date: 26.11.2025
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
Two Cover System, (Through GOK KPP Portal only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
The Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, BWCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers registered in GBA (BBMP) or equivalent registration with PWD/CPWD or any State Govt. Organisation for the execution of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Est. Cost (₹ in Lakhs)	Amount put to Tender (₹ in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
1.	Improvements to Water Body in Deepanjali Lake	200.00	164.82	Rs.2,47,230/- (Rs.1.00 lakh through e-procurement portal & the balance Rs.1,47,230/- Shall be in the form of Bank Guarantee/FD)

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal from **04.12.2025 at 5:30 p.m. onwards. (2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **09.12.2025 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Office of Chief Engineer, Malleshwaram Zone, BWCC, Palike Soudha Building, 1st Floor,14th Cross, Chandra Layout, Bengaluru-560 072. **(3)** Last Date & Time for uploading tender documents on **12.12.2025 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Opening of Technical document on **15.12.2025 at 4:30 p.m. (5)** Financial opening date will be intimated through KPP Portal.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Vijayanagar Division, BWCC

Office of the Mission Director,
National Livelihood Mission Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Dept.,
 # 4, 2nd Floor, MYSUGAR Building, J.C. Road, Near Town Hall, Bengaluru-560002. email: nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com
No. KSRLPS/NFL/GEN/98/2024/NONFL/KSRLPS/CALL-3 Date: 25.11.2025
Tender Notification - 3rd Call
National Livelihood Mission, Karnataka invites Request for Proposal for the Fabrication, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of 2,500 Coffee Kiosks for Women Self Help Groups at Various Locations across Karnataka. The RFP was published through KPPP Portal on 25.11.2025. Interested & eligible bidders can participate by logging to the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. The last date for submission of RFP is **17.12.2025 on or before 5:00 PM**. Kindly refer to the tender document for detiled schedule and information. Tender No. KSRLPS/2025-26/IND0001/CALL-3.
Sd/-
Additional Mission Director
Sanjeevini-KSRLPS
Bangalore.
DIPR/CP/4038/AKAR/2025-26

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, Building Division, SJP Campus, Bengaluru, Phone: 080-22255210
No. EE/Bld.1/AE-3/AE-4/2025-26/56 Date: 25.11.2025
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
The above Department invites Tenders through e-procurement portal of GoK **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible Tenderers for below mentioned works. Name of Work: **(1) Renovation of Revenue Department Staff Chamber, Office Rooms at 3rd Stage, West Wing 5th Floor, M.S. Building, Bengaluru.** PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 29541. Approx.value: **Rs.136.43 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 2,05,000/-.** Period of Completion: **06 Months. (2) Annual Maintenance of lawn, hedges, plants in Hon'ble High Court Justice Bungalow No. 1 to 15 in the premises of Nyayagrama at Hebbal, Bengaluru.** (From 01.10.2025 to 31.07.2026). PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT22879/Call-2. Approx. value of work: **Rs. 64.85 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs.1,29,800/-.** Period of Completion: **10 Months.** Cost of Document: **As per KPP Portal.** Last date for downloading Tender through e-procurement portal and submission through online: **03.12.2025 up to 17.05 Hrs.** Pre-Bid Meeting: **on 28.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M.** at the above mentioned Office. Date of opening the Tender: **as per e-procurement guidelines.** Further information regarding reservation and other details can be obtained from the above office or from e-procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer
DIPR/DD-C.P/4035/KSMCA/2025-26

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer
VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division, No.3 Arasikere
Ph: 08174233111 e-mail: eeypd3ask@gmail.com
Tender Notification No: EE/YP/VJNL/DIV-03/YGC/TN-08/2025-26/1273 Dated:25.11.2025 (CALL-2)
Reference Tender Notification No No:TN-05/2025-26/617 Dtd:08.08.2025 (CALL-1) (TWO TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEM) (Only through E-procurement KPP Portal)
Tenders in electronic mode on "PERCENTAGE BASIS" are invited on behalf of Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Limited, Bangalore by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.3, Arasikere, Hassan District in Two tender document system. Details of works are as follows Sl. No.1)Name of work Improvements Of Road from Adaguru gram Panchayat Adaguru Kere to Dasagodanahalli Village in Madihalli Hobali in Beluru taluk (Reserved for Cat 2A Contractor) INDENT-381 (CALL-2) Amount put to tender (Rs. In Lakhs)59.04 Category of Contractor KPWD Class-3 and Above Cat-2A Civil contractors only Details for submission of bids/EMD/ tender conditions/Pre-qualification criteria/ Pre bid details and other information related to above said work can be obtained through e-portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Intending bidder can access the tender document from Date:29.11.2025 through e-portal. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons and will not be bound to accept the lowest tender. Corrigendum/addendum will be published in the e-portal. Any further information required may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. Executive Engineer, VJNL, YP Division, No.3, Arasikere. Ph: 08174-233111, e-mail: eeypd3ask@gmail.com
Sd/- Executive Engineer, VJNL, Y P Division, No.3 Arasikere
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/789/ಕೆವಿಸ್.ಎಂಒಎ/2025–26

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAHUL, s/o; Vallat Madhavan Unni r/o; No–1B302, Shilpitha Royal Apt, Opp Skylark Arcadia, Sadaramangala, KR Puram, Blr–560067. Have changed my name as Rahul Manghat.

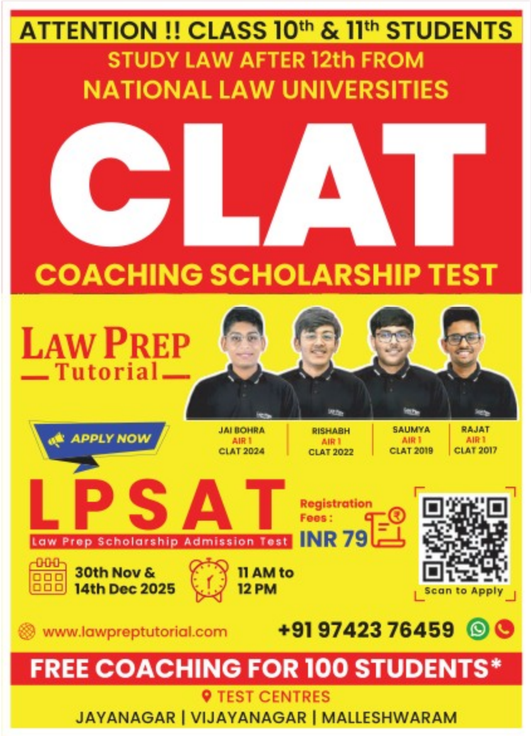
PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SADIQ Ahmed S/o Syed Ameer residing at No.159, 4th Cross, Lakshmi Layout, Arekere, Mico Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560076 have changed my name to Syed Sadiq Ahmed vide affidavit dated 25/11/2025 before Meer Hassan, Notary, B'luru.

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL



Karnataka tech start-up funding sees 40% drop: Report

According to the report, the period witnessed a noticeable slowdown in large-ticket rounds, impacting overall capital flow; Bengaluru-based tech firms contributed nearly all of the funding raised by such companies across State

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Tech startups in Karnataka raised a total of $2.7 billion in the first nine months of calendar year 2025 (9M 2025), a 40% drop compared to the corresponding period in 2024, as per the Karnataka Tech Ecosystem Report for 9M 2025 released by market research firm Tracxn.

According to the report, the period witnessed a noticeable slowdown in large-ticket rounds, impacting overall capital flow into the ecosystem. Bengaluru-based tech firms contributed nearly all of the funding raised by tech companies across Karnataka.

The funding figures also saw a 23% decline compared to the corresponding period in 2023. While the numbers stood at $4.5 billion in 9M 2024, $3.5B was raised in 9M 2023.

Seed-stage funding stood at $287 million, representing a 22% decline from $366 million in 9M 2024 and a 21% decrease from $361 million in 9M 2023.

Fall in funding

	9M 2025	9M 2024	9M 2023
Total funding	$2.7B	$4.5B	$3.5B
Seed stage funding	$287M	$366M	$361M
Early-stage funding	$1.1B	$914M	$871M
Late-stage funding	$1.3B	$3.2B	$2.2B
IPOs	2	6	0
Unicorns	3	5	1
Acquisitions	35	37	31

Positive note

On a more positive note, early-stage investment showed strong progress, reaching $1.1 billion, a 20% increase compared to $914 million in 9M 2024, and a 26% rise from $871 million in 9M 2023. According to the report, this highlighted growing investor confidence in emerging companies.

Towards the mature end of the market, however, signs of more selective participation were seen. Late-stage funding totaled $1.3 billion, a 59% decrease from $3.2 billion in 9M 2024 and a 41% decline compared to $2.2 billion in 9M 2023.

FinTech, Enterprise Applications, and Retail were the top-performing sectors in Karnataka during the period.

The FinTech sector recorded $841 million in funding, an increase of 38% compared to $608 million in 9M 2024, but a decrease of 21% compared to $1.1 billion in 9M 2023.

The Enterprise Applications sector saw $830 million in 9M 2025, representing a 19% decrease from $1.0 billion in 9M 2024, and a 26% decline compared to $1.1 billion in 9M 2023.

The Retail sector recorded $730 million in 9M 2025, a 43% drop from $1.3 billion in 9M 2024, but a 10% increase compared to $663 million raised in 9M 2023.

IPOs and unicorns

The period registered two funding rounds above $100 million - $202 million by Groww in a series F round and $120 million by Jumbotail in a series D round - compared to eight such rounds in 9M 2024 and seven in 9M 2023.

Ather Energy and BlueStone went public during the period. However, two IPOs that the State's tech ecosystem saw marked a 67% drop from six in 9M 2024. Three new unicorns emerged during the period, representing a 40% drop from five in 9M 2024, and a 200% rise compared to one in 9M 2023.

Tech companies in Karnataka saw 35 acquisitions in 9M 2025. The highest-valued acquisition was Groww acquiring Fisdom for $150 million, followed by ICRA acquiring Fintellix for $26 million.

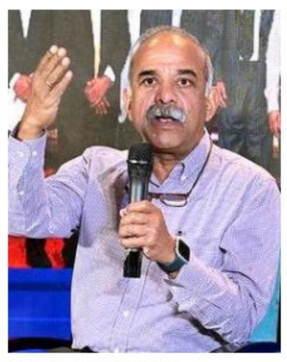
KSCA elections: 'Produce video recording of scrutiny of nomination papers'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday asked the Electoral Officer (EO), who is in charge of holding elections to various posts of the managing committee of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), not to announce the list of contesting candidates with respect to the post of president till further orders. The list of contesting candidates was required to be announced by 5 p.m. on November 26 as per calender of elections fixed by the court.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the interim order on a petition filed by K.N. Shanth Kumar, director of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd., (which publishes Kannada daily *Prajavani* and English daily *Deccan Herald*), who has questioned the rejection of his nomination paper for the post of president of the KSCA.

The nomination paper was rejected for the reason that there were arrears of ₹200 from Deccan Herald and Prajavani Sports Club, which has an institution membership with the KSCA, represented by Mr. Kumar.


K.N. Shanth Kumar
K. MURALI KUMAR

The court said that it wants to ascertain whether the institution member, namely Deccan Herald and Prajavani Sports Club, has made the payment of arrears prior to scrutiny being complete and rejection of the nomination of the petitioner, and whether the same has been brought to the notice of the EO, as it was contended on behalf of the petitioner that arrears was paid on November 24, the day of scrutiny of nomination papers, but before the actual scrutiny of the nomination papers.

To ascertain the claim of the petitioner, the court directed the EO and the KSCA to produce on November 27, the next date of hearing on the petition, the video recording of the scrutiny proceedings and a time stamped printout of the receipt of payment of arrears.

Senior advocate S.S. Nanaganand, appearing for Mr. Kumar, told the court that KSCA's norms state that the member will not be allowed to contest as long as there are arrears. When the application was taken up for scrutiny, the petitioner had already made the payment and it was informed to the EO but the same was ignored.

However, senior advocate Prabhuling K. Navadgi, appearing for cricket Venkatesh Prasad, who is also contesting for the post of president, has contended that the petition challenging the rejection of the nomination paper is not maintainable at present as election process has already commenced and the court cannot interfere in the election process at this stage.

IAS officer, two killed in road accident laid to rest

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The last rites of IAS officer Mahantesh Bilagi and his two brothers who died in a road accident were conducted as per state protocol in Ramdurg of Belagavi district on Wednesday.

The religious rites were carried out as per Lingayat tradition. The bodies were brought to Ramdurg from Jewargi, on Wednesday morning.

MLAs Ashok Pattan and G.S. Patil, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Roshan, Superintendent of Police Bheemashankar S. Guled, senior IPS officer Ravi Channannanavar and others attended.

Police officers paid their respects as per the state protocol. Earlier, the officer's mortal remains were kept for public viewing in the local stadium.

Be wary of people who still believe in Manusmriti and undermine the Constitution: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Before the Indian Constitution came to be the supreme legal document in the country, the unwritten Manu Smriti was the guiding principle, and people should be wary of those who continue to believe in it, warned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Participating in the Constitution Day event organised by the Social Welfare Department here on Wednesday, he said it was the Constitution, drafted with B.R. Ambedkar at the helm, that gave people equal rights and dignity, while the days of Manu Smriti was marked by social inequality and caste-based discrimination. "That is why Manu-*vaadi*s oppose the Constitution," he said, adding that the same people also undermine the role of Dr. Ambedkar in the drafting of the Constitution.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah beating a traditional drum during an event to mark Constitution Day in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

"We should never forget that Dr. Ambedkar is the architect of our Constitution, and he made reservation a part of it because he understood caste-based hierarchies," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

CUT FOR PRINT It is unfortunate that the basic tenets of the Constitution were still to be realised, said the Chief Minister, adding that it was being delayed because of interest groups at work. The guarantee schemes implemented by his government, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, was in line with the values enshrined in the Constitution.

At another event, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H. K. Patil gave an assurance that the government is committed to rectifying the injustices caused in employment and reservation matters due to recruitment through outsourcing.

Speaking at an event organised by the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Study Centre of Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University and the State Institute for Law and Parliamentary Reform, he opposed the practice of making appointments through outsourcing to Central and State government jobs in violation of Article 309 of the Constitution, thereby disregarding the prescribed eligibility and reservation norms.

The Minister released the 4th bilingual edition of the Constitution of India and administered the Preamble pledge.

'Bengaluru Chalo'

Meanwhile, to mark the day, Samyukta Kisan Morcha, Joint Committee of Trade Unions, and Samyukta Horata-Karnataka launched "Bengaluru Chalo" to urge the Central and State governments to fulfil their demands.

Their demand includes several policy changes, including abandoning the Seed Bill, 2025, the National Policy Framework on Agricultural Markets, and the Electricity Draft Bill-2025. They included also specific demands such as dropping land acquisitions that are contrary to farmers' interests.

Modi to offer special puja at Udupi Krishna Mutt tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have a darshan of Lord Krishna and offer a special puja at the Krishna Mutt in Udupi on Friday.

In a press release, Paryaya Puthige Mutt seer Sugunendra Tirtha Swami said the Prime Minister will be traditionally welcomed to the temple on Friday morning. He will visit Madhwa Sarovara and then have a darshan of the deity and then perform special puja.

He will then go to the venue where over 1 lakh devotees will recite the Bhagavad Gita shlokas.

Talking to reporters on Wednesday, the seer said the Prime Minister will unveil "Kanaka Kavacha" (golden covering) for divine "Kanakana Kindi".

The mutt will offer Suwarna Thirta Mantapa to the deity through Mr. Modi. The Prime Minister was slated to visit Sarvagnya Peeta, the goshala, and the new Gita Mandira.

He will have interaction with all seers of Ashta Mutts in the Chandrashale and take their blessings. He has desired to consume small quantity of Udupi special dishes, including 'patrode'.

The seer said devotees will start reciting Bhagavad Gita shlokas at 9 a.m. When the Prime Minister comes to the event venue, shlokas of chapter 15 Purushottama Yoga of the Bhagavad Gita and then the last 10 shlokas of the last chapter 16 will be recited.

Devotees in different parts of the country and abroad will join the recitation online.

All those physically participating in the programme will be provided food.

All the pujas of the Krishna Mutt will be completed by 8 a.m. on Friday.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, NOV. 27
RISE 06:24 SET 17:51
RISE 11:53 SET 23:47

FRIDAY, NOV. 28
RISE 06:24 SET 17:51
RISE 12:33 SET 00:00

SATURDAY, NOV. 29
RISE 06:25 SET 17:51
RISE 13:12 SET 00:38

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	23
Mysuru	29	19
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be slight cool. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

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THE HINDU
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Alternative Law Forum launches video series of Preamble in various languages of State

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

On November 26, Constitution Day, the Alternative Law Forum (ALF) announced the launch of a video series of translations of the Preamble in 16 languages prevalent in Karnataka

Apart from Kannada, video translations have been done in Aravu, Are Bhashe, Byari, Dakhani, Gosangi, Irula, Kodava, Konkani, Koracha, Koraga, Lambani, Malaame, Navayath, Sanketi, Tulu and Waghri.

A file photo of a visitor printing the Preamble of the Constitution at RBANM's High School in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J

Familiarising preamble

"The main objective is to increase the awareness about the Constitution, or about the preamble at least," says Ashwini Bodh, lecturer, activist and researcher at ALF.

"The Kannada preamble that is available today is very Sanskritised. Many people find it difficult to understand. There are several communities in Karnataka speaking various different languages. If the preamble is available to them in their own languages, they will probably try to read and understand it, use it during their programmes, and so on," she hopes.

The initiative is part of a larger effort by ALF to promote Constitutional literacy in the State, and the translation efforts have been going on for about a year now.

It started with attempts to bring out text versions of the Preamble in different languages of the state.

"Efforts for the videos picked up steam in the three months. It all worked out like a chain reaction. People we contacted for certain languages told us about more languages and put us on to others who could help us with those languages. It was a collective work," says Ms. Bodh.

Help was sought from native speakers as well as experts.

It took the combined effort of more than 45 people who helped with new language suggestions, contacts, translation and verification for accuracy.

While the videos have so far been produced in 17 languages of the State, more suggestions have been coming in, says Ms. Bodh.

"It is an ongoing process, and we have been getting more suggestions. It is a big bucket list."

Efforts are on to bring out videos in languages spoken by Halakki Vokkaliga, Jenu Kuruba and Yerava communities.

Ms. Bodh adds, "Languages and dialects spoken by alemari samudaya (nomadic tribes) has been challenging. They are scattered and literacy levels are very low. Therefore, translation becomes very challenging. But reaching them has been one of our main objectives and we are continuing our efforts."

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (November 27, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- The U.S., China and 'Circles for Peace' in an age of fracture **newsth.live/uschinaexp**
- How groundbreaking new brain atlases capture development in motion **newsth.live/brainatlases**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

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INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a Maharatna CPSE under Ministry of Defence, invites sealed Expression of Interest (EoI) from Indian Consulting Agencies for undertaking consultancy on collaborative marketing in African, Latin American and South East Asian Regions.

The EoI Document containing **details and qualification criteria, etc can be downloaded from web link: https://hal-india.co.in/tender.** Tender Reference No. **HAL/MKTG/ADMIN/2025/47/321.**

Last Date for submission of response is 14th December, 2025 by 1700 Hours.

Clarifications, if any, can be obtained from HAL Corporate Marketing Office located at 101, Aurobindo Place, Hauz Khas, New Delhi- 110 016, Telephone No. +91-11-26960096 / 26962026 during any working days between 0900 – 1700 hours or mail at: **marketing@hal-india.co.in.**

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

‘Leadership issue will be resolved after discussions’

Kharge says he, Rahul and Sonia will together decide on the issue; D.K. Shivakumar appears to be offering olive branch to leaders aligned with Siddaramaiah, meeting many, including Satish Jarkiholi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As discussion on the leadership issue in the Congress gathers pace with Central leaders expected to intervene to douse the fire, parleys among leaders looking to cement their political future was at play on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, in New Delhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is learnt to have briefed Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi about the leadership tussle, and the two leaders are expected to meet again on Thursday.

Speaking to PTI in New Delhi, Mr. Kharge said the issue would be resolved after discussions with senior leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. “The high command – myself, Rahul ji and Sonia ji – will together take a decision on the issue and resolve it,” Mr. Kharge said, when asked about the issue.

With every leader, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, announcing their intention to adhere to the high command’s decision, Mr. Gandhi’s role is crucial.

Party sources here said that Mr. Kharge, who over the last few days met the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, is learnt to have told Mr. Gandhi about the developments, and warned that if allowed to fester, it could damage the party’s prospects.

The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister could be called to Delhi before the Winter session of Parliament.

Meanwhile, Mr. Shivakumar appeared to be offering olive branch to leaders aligned with Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Multiple meetings

While Mr. Shivakumar met Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed on Tuesday, his late-night meeting with Public Works Minister Satish Jharkiholi raised eyebrows. Mr. Jharkiholi and Mr. Shivakumar have been at loggerheads over the years allegedly due to interference of the latter in the politics of Belagavi, the former’s political turf.

While both publicly claimed that they discussed about bringing Congress back to power in 2028, it is learnt that Mr. Shivakumar, who is currently the KPCC president, sought the cooperation of Mr. Jharkiholi, who is lobbying for the KPCC president’s post. Mr. Shivakumar is also learnt to have met a few other Cabinet Ministers seeking their cooperation.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the Constitution Day celebrations organised by the Social Welfare Department in Bengaluru on Wednesday; (right) Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during the Constitution Day celebrations at the KPCC office. K.. MURALI KUMAR

‘Within four walls’

Mr. Shivakumar told reporters, “Whatever was discussed was within the four walls. It cannot be discussed publicly. The high command will decide on the Chief Minister’s post. Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge will discuss and take an appropriate decision.”

When his attention was drawn to legislators lobbying for him in Delhi, he said, “They may have gone to lobby for ministerial position since the Chief Minister has spoken of Cabinet reshuffle. Nobody needs to talk for me... I believe in collective leadership. The party will look after my interest.”

When asked about a purported message from Rahul Gandhi to him, he said, “It is not something I wish to discuss in public.”

On Wednesday, Mr. Jharkiholi is learnt to have discussed strategies with about a dozen legislators over lunch.

He also acknowledged to reporters that he continued to identify himself with Mr. Siddaramaiah, but also clarified that he is not inimical to Mr. Shivakumar.

The PWD Minister also said that he does not see circumstances for change in leadership, but adhered to the high command’s decision. “Mr. Siddaramaiah’s leadership and service is imperative even after he retires from politics.”

It is also learnt that some legislators, who met the Central leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, have urged them to end the confusion that is hurting the party’s image.

“Whatever agreement, if any, has happened between them. We do not want this limbo to continue,” said a source.

(With additional inputs from PTI)

Give Shivakumar a chance, says seer

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Adichunchanagiri Mutt seer Nirmalanandanatha Swami has claimed that people of the Vokkaliga community favoured the Congress party in the last elections hoping that D.K. Shivakumar would become Chief Minister.

“However, he missed the chance in the changed scenario,” said the seer of the Vokkaliga mutt during an interaction with the media at Kundur Mutt in Channarayapatna taluk on Wednesday.

Nirmalanandanatha Swami

“Mr. Shivakumar has worked for the party. He should get a chance. The Congress should take a decision keeping the interest of the State and considering Mr. Shivakumar’s struggle,” he added.

From Page One

Murugha Mutt seer, 2 others acquitted in POCSO case

Second Additional District and Sessions judge Gangadhara Channabasappa Hadapad pronounced the judgment on Wednesday acquitting the accused.

The other two acquitted are Rashmi, warden of the hostel, and Paramashivaiah, a manager in the mutt. All the three were present when the verdict was pronounced.

The case was filed at the Nazarbad Police Station in Mysuru on August 26, 2022, and was transferred to Chitradurga Rural Police Station the next day.

The seer was arrested on September 1 that year. The Chitradurga police filed a charge sheet in the first case on October 27, 2022.

The case had attracted State-wide attention, leading to multiple rounds of investigation, arrest of the seer, and parallel allegations involving individuals connected to the mutt’s administration.

Security at court

The Chitradurga district administration had deployed police around the court. Many devotees had gathered on the court premises. The seer left for Davangere.

Speaking to the media in Davangere, the seer said that he would not react to the judgment at the moment.

16-year-old delivers baby in govt. hostel washroom

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A 16-year-old Class 10 student residing at the Sri D. Devaraj Urs Pre-Matric Girls Hostel in Koppal district delivered a baby boy inside the hostel washroom early on Wednesday.

The incident has led the Kukanoor Police registering a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, against a 23-year-old man. Six others, including hostel staff, teachers, and health workers, have been booked for alleged negligence and failure to protect the minor.

Earlier case

It may be recalled here that a Class IX student of a government-run residential school in Yadgir district had given birth to a baby boy in the school’s toilet in August.

In the latest case at Koppal, according to the FIR filed by District Child Protection Officer Mahantaswamy, the matter came to light when administrative officer of the Sakhi-1 Centre at Koppal District Hospital, Yamuna Bestar, informed him that the girl had given birth around 5.30 a.m. and had been admitted for medical care along with the newborn.

When the Child Protection Officer visited the hospital and recorded her statement, the minor reportedly revealed that the main accused, Hanumagouda (23), had been in a relationship with her on the promise of marriage. According to her statement, the accused had allegedly raped her multiple times since April this year. The complainant alleged that the accused forcibly had sexual intercourse with the victim despite knowing that she was a minor.

Based on these statements, the police have invoked Sections 64(2)(m) and 65(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Sections 4, 6, and 21(2) of the POCSO Act, and Sections 33 and 34 of the Juvenile Justice Act against the accused.

The police have also named hostel warden Shashikala, senior teacher Prabhakar, teacher Yankappa, and two doctors of the National Child Health Programme, Dr. Bharatesh Hiremath and Dr. Sabiya, for alleged negligence. The complainant stated that although these individuals were responsible for the care, monitoring, and welfare of the minor, they failed to notice her condition, conduct timely checks, or report any concern.

Deputy Commissioner Suresh B. Itnal, Zilla Panchayat CEO Varnit Negi, and SP Ram Arasiddhi visited the district hospital.

Govt. faulted for withdrawing advocate’s appointment in 24 hours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has restored appointment of an advocate to the post of “additional district government pleader” by setting aside the State government’s order of withdrawing his appointment within 24 hours solely for the reason that the Law Minister had ordered for appointing another advocate based on the recommendation of an MLA.

The appointment made after due process, was extinguished the very next day, not for administrative exigency, not for legal infirmity, but solely on account of a sudden change of mind, resting on a *tippani* [note] from the Minister.

“If such caprice is permitted judicial shelter, then the doctrine of pleasure would transmute into an instrument of unbridled executive whim, reducing the Constitutional safeguards to a rhetoric. This court cannot be a mute spectator to such executive freewheeling,” the court observed.

The High Court of Karnataka

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by Sunil from Athani in Belagavi district, who was removed from the post of “additional district government pleader”, XI Additional District and Session Court, Belagavi, under the provisions of the Karnataka Law Officers (Appointment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1977.

Petitioner was appointed on October 28, 2025, and removed from the post on October 29 based on a note put up by the Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights, who issued instruction to appoint one D.K. Thakkannavar to the post based on the recommendation made by the MLA of Athani constituency.

Declining to accept government’s contention that petitioner’s post is a nominated post and is at the pleasure of the government, the court said it is not a nomination but appointment under the Rules, 1977, and his removal was arbitrary.

“When State action shifts this swiftly and without explanation, the vital question is, is this discretion or is it arbitrariness, and an unequivocal and emphatic answer is “the action is arbitrary.”,” the court observed.

Canara Bank to raise ₹3,500 cr. through ATI bonds to strengthen capital base

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Canara Bank has emerged as the first bank in the current financial year to tap the Additional Tier-1 (AT1) bond market, launching a ₹3,500-crore issue to strengthen its capital base and support future growth plans, the city-based bank said on Wednesday.

The bank is raising up to ₹3,500 crore through Basel III-compliant AT1 bonds, with the issue structured around a base component of ₹1,000 crore and a green shoe option of ₹2,500 crore to meet strong investor demand, it said.

Issue tomorrow

The issue is scheduled for Friday, November 28, on the Electronic Bidding platform of National Stock Exchange.

According to the communique, the AT1 bond issue forms part of the broader capital raising programme of up to ₹9,500 crore for the year, combining Tier-1 and Tier-2 instruments to bolster regulatory capital ratios under Basel III norms.

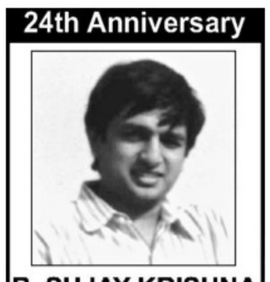
New ED

Canara Bank also announced the appointment of Sunil Kumar Chugh as Executive Director of the bank, with effect from November 24, 2025, for a period of three years, a press release said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

24th Anniversary



R. SUJAY KRISHNA
(1980-2001)
“Your love and sweet memories will live with us forever”
Sorrowing **Mummy, Daddy, Vijay, Ramani, Shravan & Tanmay**

ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING)
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-Mail: mdosscltd456@gmail.com

NIT No.OSSC/Mktg(Hort)-56/2025

Short e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of Certified Onion Seeds for Rabi - 2025-26

OSSC Ltd. invites short e-Tender only from registered Onion seed producers (and in case of GOI PSUs, their authorized Agencies) on item wise rate contract basis **for Procurement of Certified Onion Seeds for Rabi-2025-26** in double cover system through online mode only for the work below.

Name of the work	**Purchase of Certified Onion Seeds for Rabi - 2025-26.**
No of work	**One**
Availability of bid documents in portal	**15.00 hours on dt.27.11.2025 to 13.00 hours of dt.03.12.2025**
Last date of receipt of tender in portal	**13.00 hours of dt.03.12.2025**
Date and time of Opening of Bid	**15.00 hours of dt.03.12.2025**

The detailed descriptions of crops, varieties, quantity, parameters, terms and conditions and other details of tender specified in the tender schedule would be made available in the e-Tender portal **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum/ cancellation can also be seen in the said website. The Managing Director OSSC Ltd reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

CAD-2470: Sd/- **Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.**

GOVT OF KARNATAKA
KALYAN KARNATAKA REGION DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Opp Aiwan-E-Shahi, **KALABURAGI** - 585102, Karnataka
Phone: 08472-256767,Fax No.08472-227527, e-mail:hkadbgulb@gmail.com

No.KKRDB/TECH/3rd Party/2025-26/ Date:26.11.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement System)

The Secretary, KKRDB, Kalaburagi hereby invites separate Technical and Financial Bids for **“Empanelment of Third Party Consultants for Quality Assurance Audit and Control of Development works funded by KKRDB in Bellary & Vijayanagar Districts”.** Through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka, Firms willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e-procurement portal.

The tender document with detailed conditions can be obtained through website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. **EMD is Rs. 12,00,000/- Amount put to tender Rs. 7,37,00,000/- Event** : Downloading of RFP from E-Portal starts from **Date : 26-11-2025,** Last Date and Time for Submitting Queries: **02.12.2025 up to 5:30 PM**, Date and Time of Pre-Bid Meeting (Online) : **03.12.2025 at 11.30am,** Last Date for receipt of Technical and Financial Proposals **: 10.12.2025 till 4.30 pm,** Date of Opening of Technical Proposal :**11.12.2025 at 5.00pm,** Date of Opening of Financial Proposal : **12.12.2025 at 5.30pm**

Sd/- **Deputy Secretary**
Kalyan Karnataka Region Development Board, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/778/2025-26/Deshpande Publicity

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public including Firms/ Company/Banks and others are hereby informed that my client has decided to purchase the schedule property from Sri. S.E Manjunath S/o. Late S.B. Yekanthappa residing at No.117/y, 4th Main Road, 4th Phase 7th Block, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore-85. Therefore persons having any kind of right/ title/ possession/interest/ agreements are required to contact the below named advocate with all original documents within 10 days from the date of publication. In the absence of any compliant the sale transaction would be completed.

SCHEDULE

Following lands situated at Yedamadu Villages Harohalli hobli, Kanakapura taluk, Ramanagara district.

1. Sy No. 33/3 0-36 guntas. East by Suvarna Mukhi River. **West by** Land of Mooguthamma Temple. **North by** Land of Thayi Muddamma **South by** Land of Balaji.

2. Sy No. 33/3 0-36 guntas. East by Suvarna Mukhi River. **West by** Land bearing Sy No. 33/1 of Mooguthamma temple. **North by** Land of Nanjappa. **South by** Land purchased by you from Byrappa

3. Sy No. 33/3 0-36 guntas. East by Suvarna Mukhi River. **West by** Road. **North by** Land of Sudarshan. **South by** Land of Yekanthappa

Survey numbers for the above lands are mentioned as Sy No.: 33/3, 33/5 and 33/6 in Pahani for the year 2025-2026.

Advocate
Manjunatha H.L.
No.96, 1st Main, 4th Cross, Kalidasa Layout, Srinagara, Bangalore-560 050.
Mobile : 9342810851

Dated: 26.11.2025
Bangalore.

INBRIEF

Toll in fire accident at store in Hyderabad rises to two

The toll from the Shalibanda fire rose to two after the shop owner Shiva Kumar Bansal, who sustained 80% burn injuries, died during treatment late on Tuesday night. A major fire broke out on Monday night in an electronics showroom in Hyderabad neighbourhood, Hyderabad and engulfed the two-floor building promoting a major emergency response from fire and police officials that lasted for four hours. One person died at the spot, while eight were injured.

Remand prisoner found dead in Kerala jail; foul play alleged

A remand prisoner was found dead under suspicious circumstances at the Kasaragod Sub-Jail in Kerala on Wednesday, following which his family alleged that he was murdered. A police investigation has been initiated into the incident. The deceased, identified as Mubashir of Deli, was reportedly found unconscious and shifted to a hospital, where he died during treatment. He was arrested on November 5 by the Vidyanagar police in connection with a 2016 POCSO case.

NRI donates ₹9 crore to TTD's pilgrim complexes

U.S.-based NRI Mantena Ramalinga Raju on Wednesday donated ₹9 crore to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) for the modernisation of pilgrim accommodation complexes in Tirumala. The donation was made in the name of his daughter Nethra Mantena and son-in-law Vamsi Gadiraju. TTD Chairman B. R. Naidu felicitated the donor at a media conference at Padmavathi Rest House. He recalled Mr. Raju's earlier contribution of ₹16.06 crore in 2012.

'Declare Bengaluru-Hyd as defence, aerospace corridor'

Revanth invites Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Telangana Rising 2047 Global Summit

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, on Wednesday, appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to declare Bengaluru-Hyderabad as a defence and aerospace corridor to contribute to the Viksit Bharat objectives.

Speaking at the opening of French firm Safran's maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) for LEAP engines and ground breaking for M88 military engines maintenance facility in Hyderabad, in which Mr. Modi participated virtually, he pointed how Hyderabad has emerged as one of the leading MRO and aero engine hubs in India.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Union Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu at the Safran facility in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

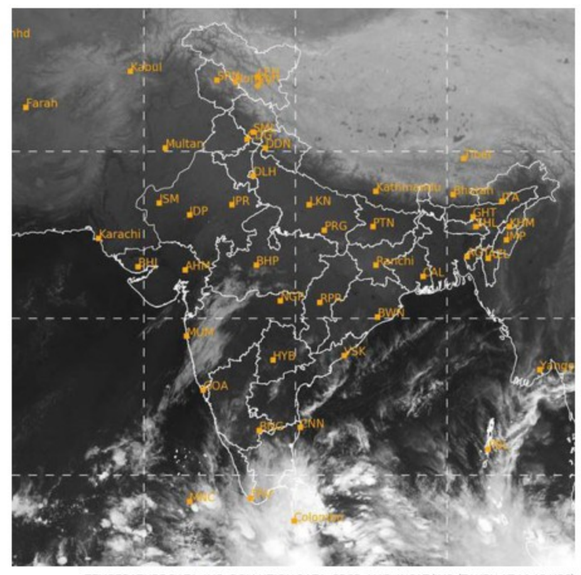
"We have more than 25 major global companies and over 1,500 MSMEs. Our world-class infrastructure and dedicated aerospace parks and SEZs have attracted several mega investments from leading global companies. We are now the top choice for highly complex precision engineering projects. Hyderabad is chosen by the likes of Safran, Boeing, Airbus, Tata, Bharat Forge and others for manufacturing and research and development projects," Mr. Reddy said, adding how the State's progressive industrial as well as MSME policies are ranked amongst the best in the country.

Telangana's exports in aerospace and defence doubled last year, reaching ₹30,742 crore in nine months and in the process went past pharma exports for the first time, he said.

The Chief Minister invited the Prime Minister and leadership of the company to Telangana Rising 2047 Global Summit scheduled at the proposed Bharat Future City on December 8 and 9.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe. Fog likely at isolated pockets over Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.1	15.0	Kozhikode	—	33.6	25.2
Ahmedabad	—	30.9	18.3	Kurnool	—	31.9	20.8
Aizawl	—	26.9	14.2	Lucknow	—	26.4	10.0
Allahabad	—	25.8	9.9	Madurai	—	30.4	24.3
Bengaluru	—	26.6	18.0	Mangaluru	—	32.4	23.0
Bhopal	—	27.0	15.4	Mumbai	—	33.3	22.8
Bhubaneswar	—	28.7	16.0	Mysuru	—	29.4	18.0
Chandigarh	—	25.7	8.1	New Delhi	—	25.5	8.0
Chennai	—	30.2	25.4	Patna	—	26.3	14.7
Coimbatore	—	30.6	21.8	Port Blair	—	31.4	25.5
Dehradun	—	24.8	8.2	Puducherry	—	29.2	23.4
Gangtok	—	18.5	8.9	Pune	—	31.9	18.5
Goa	—	33.8	22.0	Raipur	—	29.0	16.8
Guwahati	—	28.5	15.6	Ranchi	—	22.4	9.2
Hubballi	—	29.0	16.0	Shillong	—	20.2	8.0
Hyderabad	—	28.6	18.2	Shimla	—	18.2	8.2
Imphal	—	24.8	13.9	Srinagar	—	13.6	-3.9
Jaipur	—	25.0	11.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.7	24.1
Kochi	—	30.8	24.4	Tiruchi	—	30.1	23.0
Kohima	—	19.9	9.4	Vijayawada	—	30.0	21.9
Kolkata	—	27.5	17.0	Visakhapatnam	—	29.2	21.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.21	..46	.17	...254	...169	
Bengaluru	.11	..37	.48	...109	...102	
Chennai	...8	..22	..—	...118	...114	
Delhi	.56	126	120	...350	...319	
Hyderabad	...4	..25	.97	...170	...138	
Kolkata	.14	..18	.21	...328	...163	
Lucknow	.10	..46	.57	...225	...278	
Mumbai	..—	..81	.86	...259	...247	
Pune	..—	..47	.51	...208	...146	
Visakhapatnam	.26	..29	.27	...310	...178	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hapur, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 366 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Trade unions in Kerala urge govt. not to frame rules to implement labour codes

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Trade unions in Kerala have unanimously told the State government not to frame rules for the implementation of the four labour codes recently notified by the Centre, Elamaram Kareem, State general secretary of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), has said.

Addressing the media, after opening a march taken out to the Income Tax office by various trade unions in protest against the codes on Wednesday, he said that options would be explored against implementing the new laws.

His comments come against the backdrop of news reports revealing that the Left Democratic Front-led government had prepared a draft of the rules some time ago. The CITU leader claimed it was done by a section of officials in the Labour department who had acted under pressure from their Central counterparts. "The Union government asked all the States to frame rules. Thereafter, the draft was prepared in 2021. Labour Minister V. Sivankutty subsequently called the trade unions for talks. We told him that it need not be implemented now, and that we will wait till the Central government notifies its rules. The draft was thus kept aside," he said.

He alleged that the codes were aimed at creating a "trade union-free atmosphere" which would make collective bargaining by workers for their rights a hard task.

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, V. Sivankutty clarified that though the State had notified the draft rules for the new Labour Codes and sought various opinions, it did not take any follow-up action in the wake of objections from trade unions.

He said that States were under huge pressure to frame rules for the four Codes in 2020. Following this, the draft rules were prepared and notified, and opinions of various sections sought, since Kerala was not ready to implement them unilaterally.

Ayodhya temple gets titanium windows made by MIDHANI

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Defence public sector firm Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) has announced a significant contribution to the 'Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra' in Ayodhya by manufacturing and supplying 31 specially engineered titanium windows for the 'Pradakshina' corridor of the temple complex.

MIDHANI has been supplying titanium alloys for strategic applications for over four decades. This marks the first time titanium is being used as a structural and architectural material in a monument. Known for its exceptional strength-to-weight ratio, corrosion resistance and longevity, titanium is typically reserved for high-precision aerospace and defence applications, according to an official release.

Its resistance to atmospheric, chemical and moisture-related degradation makes it ideal for outdoor structures expected to endure centuries of environmental exposure. By incorporating titanium into the temple's architectural elements, the project ensures unmatched durability, minimal maintenance and a timeless aesthetic appeal that reflects the sanctity and permanence of the Ram Mandir.

The windows were crafted using advanced processes such as vacuum arc melting, forging and hot rolling with a wide plate mill. The distinctive golden appearance was achieved through an anodisation process.

Multilingual campaigning

In full throttle: Left Democratic Front supporters in Vattavada, Idukki, near the Kerala-Tamil Nadu boundary, paste Tamil posters of candidates ahead of Kerala's local body polls next month. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kerala mulling review plea on SC ruling on setting up primary schools: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala is considering filing a review petition in the Supreme Court in connection with the latter's directives to the State government on establishing primary schools in areas where none function, Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty said.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, the Minister said the government respected the top court's ruling in the case related to a petition seeking the setting up of a school at Elambra in Manjeri municipality in Malappuram district and was examining the practical aspects of the judgment, though a copy of the order was awaited.

V. Sivankutty

He pointed out that Kerala was much ahead of northern States when it came to educational facilities. Government and aided schools functioned within a 1-2 km radius in majority of the populated areas. School dropout rates were almost zero and when it came to literacy rates, the national average is much lower than that in Kerala. This showed that no student was denied education just because of lack of schools.

The matter of the school at Elambra would be specially considered since the local body had informed that free land and building would be made available for it. The government, the Minister said, was committed to implementing the Right to Education Act, but it should be done scientifically and in a practical manner.

The State's policy was to lift existing schools to international standards, rather than increase the number of schools, the Minister said.

Madanapalle district proposal has political and bureaucratic circles in Rayalaseema talking

K. Umashanker
MADANAPALLE

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu's green signal to create Madanapalle district, carved out of parts of Annamayya and Chittoor, has generated a sudden heat in the political and administrative circles of Rayalaseema. Though the move has been officially projected as an initiative to improve governance, it is broadly viewed as a strategic reshaping of power equations in the region.

With six Punganur mandals set to be realigned into the new district, it is observed among a cross section of the public and political circles that the move could directly crush senior YSRCP leader Peddireddi Ramachandra Reddy's influence over the region, where he has long remained a formidable force.

On the other hand, the announcement unleashed long-suppressed aspirations among the local people, particularly farmers. According to a horticulture officer, the district status could finally push the State to invest in cold-storage networks, transport connectivity, and agro-processing facilities. Madanapalle's handloom and silk-weaving industries are also expected to receive a fresh lease of life once the district status comes into force.

However, there is also scepticism that, since the State's earlier district-formation exercise was marred by hasty execution, poor office infrastructure, and delayed staff deployment, as per a TDP leader, Madanapalle could become another "district on paper".

3.5 billion-year-old crater on Mars to be christened after geologist M.S. Krishnan

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A 3.5 billion-year-old crater on Mars will henceforth be known after M.S. Krishnan, the pioneering Indian geologist. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) has approved it and several other names for Martian landforms proposed by two Kerala-based researchers.

Smaller craters and vallis in Mars are set to get names — 'Valiamala,' 'Thumba,' 'Bekal,' 'Varkala' and 'Periyar'. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Apart from 'Krishnan,' the IAU has also accepted several Kerala-based names for smaller landforms associated with the crater. These are 'Valiamala,' 'Thumba,' 'Bekal,' 'Varkala' and 'Periyar' for smaller craters and a vallis (valley). Which means, these places in Kerala now have counterparts on Mars.

The naming proposal was jointly submitted by Asif Iqbal Kakkassery, formerly research scholar at the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) here and who is now Assistant Professor in Geology at Government College, Kasaragod, and Rajesh V.J. of the Department of Earth and Space Sciences, IIST.

Born in Thanjavur in what was then Madras Presidency in 1898, Dr. Krishnan was the first Indian to be director of the Geological Society of India. As for the other names, it is the first time that place names from Kerala are being adopted for Martian features, the team said.

"The plain inside Krishnan Crater has been officially named Krishnan Palus, and a channel cutting across it has been named Periyar Vallis," Dr. Rajesh said.

The findings have been published in the journal *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*.

Limited room

India must reduce dependence on oil imports to stabilise the rupee

Between late November 2024 and now, the rupee has depreciated about 7%, sliding from roughly ₹83.4 a dollar to about ₹89.2. This is not unprecedented as in 2018, it slid 11%-12% against the dollar. The comparison is instructive because the political and trade backdrops have echoes of that earlier period. In 2018, during the first term of U.S. President Donald Trump, global dollar strength, rising U.S. interest rates and trade tensions pressured emerging market currencies, including the rupee. The RBI used its first longer-term currency-swap as a systemic liquidity check. In 2019, it completed a $5 billion three-year dollar/rupee swap. And in February 2025, it carried out a $10 billion dollar/rupee buy-sell swap auction to infuse long-term rupee liquidity into the banking system under global stress. Such swaps are a standard tool by central banks to supply liquidity, shore up forex reserves and prevent disorderly currency depreciation when the dollar surges or capital flows reverse. The steep rupee slide in November arises in a context of external pressures – a widening current-account deficit, driven partly by higher imports of bullion, as a hedge in uncertain times, and exporters scrambling to maintain competitiveness amid high U.S. trade tariffs. In such a hostile global macro-environment, the RBI's mandate is limited: under the floating-but-managed regime, it can only 'smoothen volatility' rather than fix the exchange rate.

Between November last year and now, the RBI sold a net of roughly $50 billion in forex to stabilise the rupee. Even so, the slide has proceeded, highlighting the external pressures. That said, there is room for cautious optimism. India's foreign exchange reserves are comfortable – close to $693 billion. On the domestic front, retail inflation has slumped: headline CPI inflation came in at just 0.25% in October 2025, well below the RBI's target-band of 2%-6%. This gives the RBI space to tolerate modest currency depreciation without triggering aggressive rate hikes especially as India transitions from cheaper Russian crude to relatively costlier U.S. oil imports. With crude accounting for over a fifth of total imports in FY25, rupee depreciation combined with costlier oil imports could exert upward pressure on inflation. Given this environment, monetary stabilisation alone cannot suffice. The Centre must address India's long-standing vulnerability: heavy dependence on oil. Steps such as faster transport electrification must be treated as strategic imperatives and pursued with urgency. These must be done with a well thought-out trade policy, as opposed to a raft of bilateral trade deals that India has focused on , in the hope that these would diversify trade routes. If anything, trade agreements with Japan, the UAE and ASEAN have tilted the trade balance against India.

Fighting the fire

COP30 sought to change the narrative by focusing on 'implementation'

The 30th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP) concluded in Belem, Brazil, a city chosen for its proximity to the Amazon rainforest. The symbolism was high this year. It is 10 years since the Paris Agreement was signed by 195 countries – a pact to ensure that the globe did not heat up beyond 2°C of pre-industrial times and, as far as possible, contain it to 1.5°C. That was a goal easier stated than done; 2024 ended up being the first time that temperatures breached the 1.5°C territory though it will require several more such transgressions for 1.5°C to be the 'new normal'. In all the years since, COPs have been about systematically getting all countries to move on the path of restructuring their economies away from their fossil-fuel hardwiring; apportioning responsibility – and finance – in ways to actualise these goals, and finally work towards addressing the damage that climate change had already done to societies, livelihoods and ecologies. While there has been success, in that most countries – even the United States – recognise that renewables are the future of energy, it has been challenging for countries to execute the transformation while also growing their economies and keeping their competitive edges sharp. This has led to the formation of the two broad blocs – one led by developed countries and affiliated allies that has pushed for hard targets and road maps to phase out fossil fuels, and the other by developing countries or petro states who reject such prescription and demand more money and action from the developed countries.

The Brazil COP sought to bring a change in the narrative by stressing 'implementation', and reminding the world that multilateralism and 'mutirão' (coming together) were indispensable to the Paris Agreement. While the absence of the U.S. weakened the developed country blocs, this year saw greater thrust on topics such as 'adaptation' and 'just transition' – concepts that acknowledge the everyday effects of climate change and stress practical preparatory steps and finance pledges to help countries burnish climate defences. India, which has been one of the prominent voices for developing country coalitions, was welcoming of the Brazil Presidency's acknowledgement of concerns but did not declare its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (actions on adopting clean energy). The COP's negotiation process often leaves one wondering about the net gains made, given that pollution, deforestation and climate denialism seem more voluble and visible but, as it is often said, this is humanity's only opportunity to mitigate a cataclysm of its making.

Presidential opinion versus the federal structure

Randeep Singh Surjewala

is Member of Parliament (Indian National Congress), Rajya Sabha and an Advocate of the Supreme Court of India

In the journey of every nation, there comes a moment where institutions must stand up as solid guardrails to defend what is intrinsic to the foundational values of the nation-state. Because, if the foundational principles are allowed to crumble, the remaining structure will wither away. Further, the institutions which sanction such an obliteration of core ideas, almost always meet the same end. Once the tree falls, the branches cannot survive.

The Supreme Court of India has done just that, while answering the 16th Presidential reference on the powers of Governors and the President of India. The core philosophy of federalism, ingrained in India's Constitution, lies eroded and buried. The States will gradually become shadow Union Territories with Legislatures but dependent on the dictates of those in power in the central government. Federalism is a vital safeguard in addition to being part of the basic structure of the Constitution. Sounding the death knell for federalism would precipitate the absolute dominion of the Government of India over the remaining institutions that seek to control, regulate and quash arbitrariness and the autocracy of those in power at the Centre.

Equal partners

Under the constitutional scheme, the Union and States are equal partners, with the Government of India being only 'first among equals'. States are not subservient to the Union Government, nor are they secondary appendages, bound by the diktats of the Government of India. In fact, in all areas in the State list (such as land laws and law and order), they enjoy complete autonomy. Any other understanding of federalism in the Indian context would disrupt and violate the constitutional scheme envisaged by the framers of the Constitution.

If Bills/laws passed by the State Legislature are going to be kept pending by the Governor for months and then returned to the Legislature for 'reconsideration', and on reaffirmation by the Legislature then reserved for the assent of the President, it would effectively mow down an 'elected Legislature' before the whims of an 'unelected Governor'. This is the very anti-thesis of democracy.

Governors are appointees of the ruling party at the Centre, who, more often than not, act on the whims of those in power in the Government of India and even actively accommodate their political agendas. This is a reality that cannot be ignored or wished away.

Therefore, the scales of federalism and democracy must be weighed between what the Supreme Court calls the "unwritten and undefined powers" of an unelected Governor, acting to serve the political agenda of the Government of India vis-à-vis the mandate of an elected State Government and Assembly reflecting the will of the people of that State. How then can Governors be permitted to overrule the will of the people of the State?

> The 16th Presidential reference could endanger the will of the people

Once the Legislature has passed a law, a timeline on the exercise of the powers by the Governor, under Article 200 of the Constitution of India, has to be read therein to bring it in conformity with the principle of federalism, which is part of the basic structure. This is not just harmonious but also imperative in the current climate of unprecedented administrative excesses. The two-judge Bench in the Tamil Nadu Governor's case (the decision which led the President to seek an opinion) understood this and prescribed finite and reasonable timelines accordingly.

What the touchstone is

The power of the Governor has to be tested on the touchstone of reasonableness, i.e., a reasonable time to think through and decide on the Legislation. If this timeline is not read, the Governor will become an unelected despot over an elected Government.

Let us not forget that fairness, reasonableness and non-arbitrariness are the threads that run through the veins of our Constitution, and especially Part III which protects citizens against a wayward state. If you anoint unelected Governors or even the President of India as unbridled monarchs over elected governments, the entire edifice of the Constitution will start to crumble.

"Judicial Review" is also a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. No authority, howsoever high it may be, including Parliament, can ever say that its actions will not be tested by judicial review.

The exercise of powers by the Governor or the President of India cannot remain alien to the principle of judicial review. The office of Governor or the President of India is not bigger than Parliament. Even Parliament cannot escape judicial review for its actions. So how can the Governor or the President of India claim immunity from judicial review, especially when they are creations of the same Constitution?

The theory of 'limited direction' propounded by the Court goes against the grain of the constitutional scheme, the doctrine of federalism, the doctrine of reasonableness enshrined in Article 14, the doctrine of judicial review and the principles of fairness and justice.

To give such unbridled power to the Governor and the President to keep important pieces of legislation pending for long periods of time, so as to defeat the very purpose thereof, cannot be accepted. This is tantamount to giving Governors a pocket veto and holding States captive to the whims of Governors (and the President) and also keeping States perpetually embroiled in litigation before the courts in order to get a direction for giving assent to every legislation. Ultimately, such an arrangement is constitutionally unsustainable and democratically indefensible.

A weakening of the federal structure

The other problem with the opinion is that it does not take into account the broader context of the series of designed attacks by the Centre on the federal structure in recent times. Here are some examples. First, ,the refusal by the central government to provide compensation to producing States for loss of Goods and Services Tax, thereby effectively disincentivising efficiencies, revenue generation and good governance.

Second, cess collected exclusively by the central government being used as an excuse to deny sharing of its revenue with the States.

Third, refusal by the central government to fully implement the devolutions recommended by the Finance Commission.

Fourth, forcing States to adhere to a 'one-size-fits-all' conditions to central schemes and making them conditionally applicable to States only on States agreeing to contribute up to 50% of the schemes budgeted expenditure. This puts unprecedented pressure on their already stressed finances.

Fifth, weaponisation of money in the central kitty by providing financial support as a quid pro quo for advancing the political agenda of the party at the Centre. The recent transfer of ₹10,000 to 1.21 crore women in Bihar very close to the Bihar Assembly election 2025 or the grant of a special financial package for Andhra Pradesh in the last Budget are two recent examples.

Sixth, misuse of the Central Bureau of Investigation/Enforcement Directorate/Income-Tax Department to raid, browbeat, arrest Chief Ministers and Ministers and bring down Opposition governments.

And, finally, to top it all, central control through the Governor's fiat, which will be the 'straw that broke the camel's back as far as federalism is concerned.

If this deep distortion of federalism is permitted to take root, the Union Government will command unrestrained authority while States are reduced to mere administrative outposts. Democracy cannot survive where the will of the people is held hostage to the whims of unelected constitutional functionaries. It is imperative that citizens take notice, institutions reflect, and the Supreme Court reconsiders. Because the preservation of federalism is the preservation of India itself.

The way to reconciliation in Jammu and Kashmir

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq

is Chairman, Hurriyat Conference

The bomb blast in New Delhi that claimed the lives of innocent civilians and injured many others saddened me deeply. No one who values humanity can remain untouched by such loss. As Kashmiris, we have lived through the pain of violence for decades and, therefore, understand better than most what it means for families to lose loved ones, suddenly and brutally. Every act of violence against the innocent is unacceptable and no cause or ideology can ever justify it.

The rush to judge

Yet, while we mourn, it is troubling to see how quickly such tragedies are converted into sensational narratives. Even before investigations establish facts, sections of the media are quoting "inside sources" and are ready with headlines that cast suspicion on a particular community and religion. This rush to judge not only misleads the public but also places an entire population under scrutiny – especially Kashmiri students and professionals living across India, who suddenly find themselves being treated as suspects. Fear replaces safety, and anxiety grips families back home.

Condemnation of acts of terror must not be allowed to transform itself into collective punishment. Unfortunately, this has become a recurrent pattern in Jammu and Kashmir. In recent years, we have seen houses, the homes of aging parents, spouses and children, being blown up or demolished because a family member was accused of supporting militancy.

A house is not just a structure. It represents dignity, belonging and memories. Destroying it punishes those who have committed no crime.

> Condemnation of acts of terror must not be allowed to become collective punishment

Similarly, detaining or harassing relatives and the acquaintances of suspected militants is neither justice nor strategy. It spreads anger and pain further. Young people do not turn to violence, that too educated professionals if they feel heard and hopeful. They do so mostly when they feel oppressed, humiliated and disempowered. While the larger issue remains unaddressed, there is also the curtailment of civil liberties, constant police surveillance, fear of arbitrary dismissals from government service, and attachment of properties by investigative agencies and frequent raids and arrests. Combined with shrinking employment avenues and the unjust reservation and recruitment policies that leave local educated youth feeling excluded even from the limited jobs that exist, all these have created a deep sense of suffocation among them.

Furthering alienation

This alienation is further intensified by the abrogation of constitutionally guaranteed Article 370, the withdrawal of land and job protections, and the widespread fear of demographic change through policies that encourage outsider settlement and domicile rights. These steps and measures – however, they may be defended officially – are experienced on the ground as attacks on identity, dignity, and ownership of one's homeland. Such measures do not foster integration. They reinforce the feeling of dispossession. And the stronger that feeling, the more extreme the retaliatory violence.

Highlighting these realities is not justification of violence – it is an attempt to prevent it. Peace cannot be built on the denial of wounds. If peace is the goal then the causes that lead to violent extremism must be addressed. Security operations may *suppress* symptoms, but only justice and empathy can heal the root.

The path to pursue

I have also always urged the youth not to resort to violence or extremism measures. It is totally unjustifiable, completely against religious tenets, destructive and self defeating. To me, the best way to redress issues among people is dialogue, rooted in compassion and mutual respect. Guns, demolitions, collective punishment, and blanket suspicion will not bring peace. They produce resentment, distrust and alienation. But when dignity is protected, aspirations are addressed and rights are respected, hearts open and reconciliation becomes possible.

I, therefore, urge policymakers in India to view Jammu and Kashmir not merely as a law-and-order issue, but as a human and political reality that requires engagement, redress and confidence building. The framework once articulated by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee – *insaniyat* and *jamhooriyat* – still holds the promise of a dignified future for all.

Whether those in power choose that path or ignore it, is for them to decide. As for us, the pulpit of Jama Masjid will continue to advocate for peace, condemn injustice and violence wherever it occurs. We will not give up on hope fostered by our faith in the belief that hope is the strength that sustains societies through their most difficult moments and leads them toward better days.

(This article is an elaboration of the Friday Sermon delivered by the writer at the Jama Masjid, Srinagar)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Polygamy Bill

The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025 (Front page, November 26) opens an inevitable constitutional debate. While the State invokes women's protection and social order, criminalising polygamy raises clear tensions with Muslim personal law, which still permits limited polygamy under the Shariat Act, 1937. A State law overriding a protected personal law regime will almost certainly invite judicial scrutiny under Articles 14, 15, 21 and 25. Moreover, carving out exemptions for Scheduled Tribes and Sixth Schedule areas weakens the Bill's claim to universality and exposes it to an Article 14 challenge on reasonable classification. Until a nationwide Uniform Civil Code democratically resolves such divergences, Assam's unilateral move risks being seen as legislative overreach. The Chief Minister may present this as social reform, but the Bill stirs up a hornet's nest.

Gopalaswamy J.,
Chennai

Dismissal of officer

I was shocked to read the report, "SC upholds dismissal of Christian officer from Indian Army" (Inside pages, November 26). As a Christian priest in a garrison church, Wellington Barracks, The Nilgiris, I have been asked to carry the Bible before Christian soldiers who had just finished their rigorous nine-month training programme at the attestation parade, before they left for different parts of the country. It was the same with Muslim soldiers with the Koran. Every religion was honoured and respected, secularism was safeguarded and the sentiments of every soldier were protected.

S.C. Jayakumar,
Coimbatore

Religion is a very sensitive personal matter and the top court could have been more empathetic to the officer. In a pluralistic and secular nation like ours, the situation could be remedied if the higher-ups in the Army try to reinstate the officer by making an appeal before the top court.

D.D. Vayanan Thomas,
Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

Clinical Proteas

The shocking and embarrassing series defeat of the Indian team places Indian cricket at the crossroads. It is wrong to bay for head coach Gautam Gambhir's blood as he is only partially responsible for the poor showing. The foremost reason for the debacle is the Indian batsmen's inability to play quality spin bowling on turning tracks. Team selection is wrong. If Ravindra Jadeja is the first option all-rounder, there is no place for players such as Washington Sundar and Axar Patel. If Rishab Pant is an automatic choice, there is no place for Dhruv Jurel. Specialist bowlers and batsmen must be selected in their places. Batsmen who can also bowl and bowlers who can also bat should not find a place in Test matches. Playing six bowlers was questionable. The retirement of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill's injury have impacted the team balance. Now that youngsters are getting moulded for limited overs games, there will be a dearth of specialists.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The INO that wasn't and the JUNO that is

Vasudevan Mukunth

China has finished building its Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO), a bittersweet development given that the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) has been in limbo for years. Both JUNO and INO were designed to study subatomic particles called neutrinos, which are very hard to catch because they rarely interact with matter. This is why both INO and JUNO are huge: the more matter there is, the more interactions there will be between neutrinos and matter, and thus more opportunities for study.

Progress on JUNO

However, this size was perhaps the original trigger of the INO's downfall, so to speak, in India. Because the INO detector was so massive (weighing 50 kilotonnes), it could not be operated from inside a lab nor could scientists situate its detector in an existing facility. Instead, the INO collaboration had planned to install the detector inside a mountain in Theni in Tamil Nadu, together with other research facilities. The mountain's rock was to serve as a natural shield for the detector, obviating the need for a separate structure, which would have been expensive.

However, the scale of the construction activity in the area and the involvement of the Department of Atomic Energy, which was helping fund the project, spooked the locals and spurred local leaders to draw political mileage from that. The INO collaboration also erred (in hindsight) by not following procedure and by not estimating how controversial the project could become, which, if it had done, would have helped it respond to and manage certain public sentiments better.

In the late 2010s, these delays were painful as China moved in leaps to realise JUNO. The 'pain' was because the INO collaboration was hoping to secure a limited pool of grants and investments from foreign governments to operate the detector. China expected to complete JUNO by 2020 but that turned out to be five years too soon. If it had said it would aim for 2025, would the INO have had a better chance by no longer having a tight deadline? Maybe not but it wouldn't have been implausible either.

While the INO remains stalled, JUNO has released its first analyses. The team uploaded two preprint papers on November 18. One reported the "initial performance results of the JUNO detector". Its author list reveals the sort of international collaboration India was hoping for, with researchers from Russia, the U.S., the U.K., Chile, Armenia, Belgium, Brazil, Taiwan, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Pakistan, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Thailand participating.

It is not clear why there are no researchers from India. Journalist Jatan Mehta has documented a similar issue in the space science sphere: researchers from India were conspicuous by their absence in the (first) list of applications to access the rocks China had brought back from the moon on its Chang'e-5 mission in 2020. India has a long history in neutrino physics and analysing lunar samples, and boasts of many excellent scholars in these fields.

The second preprint paper reported the object of INO's study. Even though neutrinos are so elusive, physicists have discovered that they come in three types, or flavours, and that they can oscillate between these as they travel through space.

Figuring out how the three neutrino masses are ordered is an important open question – and it is related to neutrino oscillations, which are in turn described by three figures called θ-12 ("theta one two"), θ-13, and θ-23. Previous experiments have pinned down θ-13, and JUNO and INO were conceived to use this prior knowledge to determine the neutrino mass ordering. In the second paper, the JUNO collaboration reported that it had measured θ-12 very precisely, in a way broadly consistent with previous findings.

On the back of this, Institute of High Energy Physics scientist and JUNO project manager and spokesperson Yifang Wang had said, "With this level of accuracy, JUNO will soon determine the neutrino mass ordering, test the three-flavour oscillation framework, and search for new physics beyond it."

Rising bar

While we can debate the way the INO collaboration (at times), bureaucrats, political leaders, and some activists conducted themselves during the saga, one must acknowledge that in this domain, missing the bus on one occasion does not mean you can catch the next one; it means the next one has to be something more sophisticated than a bus for your efforts to mean anything. India had the wherewithal in the previous decade to help crack an important scientific mystery. But if JUNO helps surmount this challenge, India may not have the resources to take a shot at the next big mystery because it will be more specialised and need more sophisticated technologies. Then again, only a fool would bet against the ingenuity and resourcefulness of young scientists to come up with a way.

What grates more is the spectre of "resource constraints" – sometimes all too real, sometimes a bogeyman that administrators invoke to not fund research or, crucially, the skills and materials required to manage its consequences for local communities. Still, there is no room for the notion that India is not ready for a Big Science project. Both the large ground-based telescopes of astronomy and the protected areas of conservation constitute Big Science, and India has many. Perhaps the bigger lesson is that we should not attempt such a project solely by whether scientists alone are ready; we should also check whether the conditions beyond science and on the ground are ready as well.

India had the wherewithal in the previous decade to help crack an important scientific mystery, but now China has surged ahead

Appointments that led to annoyance

The selection of District Congress Committee presidents exposes old tensions

STATE OF PLAY

R. Ravikanth Reddy
ravikanth.ramasayam@thehindu.co.in

The recent appointment of District Congress Committee (DCC) presidents in Telangana has triggered an intense internal debate. It has exposed long-standing differences among senior leaders, and thrown up questions over adherence to organisational norms as well as concerns about the party's strategic direction as it prepares for the crucial local body and Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections.

While the Congress high command framed these appointments as an exercise in social engineering and organisational restructuring, the selections have left several leaders dissatisfied, particularly in politically sensitive districts.

Broadly, the list of new DCC presidents has raised eyebrows because several of the appointees are neither widely known nor influential in their respective districts. The leadership has claimed that the selections were aimed at strengthening Backward Classes representation and ensuring a gender balance.

A major flashpoint arose with the appointment of Kailash Netha as DCC president of Nalgonda. Congress Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy gave a written complaint to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy demanding his removal. He reminded the party that Mr. Netha had abused him during the Munugode bypoll when the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) was in power.

Also, Nalgonda district, known for its long tradition of strong Reddy leadership and Scheduled Tribe population and historically significant

Congress figures, reacted strongly to the choice.

Similar ego and seniority issues are seen in other districts as well. Some appointments have angered the sitting MLAs who feel that those working against them were made DCC presidents.

Senior leaders argue that while the party may have intended a symbolic social engineering move by elevating leaders from various castes with little political experience, it should not have come at the expense of experience, internal harmony, and electoral strategy.

Senior party members have also questioned the disregard for organisational guidelines set earlier by the Congress high command. According to the norms, MLAs were not to be given DCC roles, former DCC presidents were not to be renominated, and leaders holding higher organisational responsibilities were to be excluded from these posts. These rules appear to have been ignored in several cases. In addition, the appointment of those who already serve as PCC vice presidents or general secretaries has annoyed leaders who believe that this will only widen internal inequality and demotivate aspirants at the district level.

Insiders point to the strong influence of AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan in the final list, suggesting that even the recommendations of TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud were bypassed. Senior leaders feel that local political dynamics were not adequately considered. Given the fragile organisational balance in many districts, decisions perceived as externally imposed may create more issues.

Concerns extend to urban constituencies as well. For instance, Deepak John has been appointed for Secunderabad district and Mothe Rohit for Khairatabad district ahead of the GHMC elections. While Mr. Rohit is young and energetic, Mr. John is already chairman of a corporation. Questions are being raised about whether they can effectively lead the party in a city where senior leaders, established networks, and community-specific dynamics play a critical role. The worry is that inexperienced leaders may struggle to manage competing factions or build momentum among urban voters.

More broadly, these appointments highlight a recurring dilemma in Congress politics: the tension between promoting new faces and retaining seasoned leadership. While the party's attempt at social engineering is politically necessary, its execution seems to have disregarded ground realities in key districts.

At a time when the Congress government in Telangana is preparing for a series of electoral battles, internal coherence and organisational strength are crucial. Instead, the new appointments have led to another round of factionalism and public disagreements. Ultimately, the success of the DCC presidents will depend not just on their social background but on their ability to mobilise cadres, manage factions, and inspire confidence among senior leaders and grassroots workers.

Trade, defence tensions surge in Japan-China clash over Taiwan

The kerfuffle over Sanae Takaichi's remarks arrives just as Japan faces significant domestic headwinds

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi sparked a controversy when she said that a Chinese assault on Taiwan could be deemed a "survival-threatening situation" – a legal justification allowing Tokyo to exercise collective self-defence. China claims sovereignty over Taiwan, a position Taipei firmly rejects.

Ms. Takaichi's refusal to retract the statement caused bilateral ties to unravel at an alarming speed. The dispute has become the region's biggest crisis in recent years, characterised by Chinese military sorties, economic coercion against seafood imports, and a blanket freeze on cultural exchange. Having failed to force a retraction, Beijing has escalated the issue to the United Nations, framing Japan's stance as a threat to the post-war international order.

Japan's post-war Constitution forbids it from using force as a means of settling international disputes but a 2015 law, passed when Ms. Takaichi's mentor, Shinzo Abe, was Prime Minister, permits it to exercise collective self-defence in certain situations, even if it is not directly under attack.

The brouhaha over Ms. Takaichi's remarks comes just as Japan faces significant domestic headwinds. The world's fourth-largest economy is facing a slow economic growth **(Chart 1)** and persistent inflation. The Prime Minister is attempting to solve these issues with new stimulus measures. Further compounding these challenges is a long-term fertility crisis, with the country's population growth turning negative since 2011.

Against this backdrop, a prolonged rift with China could be problematic, given that Beijing is Japan's largest trading partner. China accounted for 20% of Japan's imports and exports each, between 2018 and 2024 **(Chart 2)**. Bloomberg notes that Japanese manufacturers rely heavily on Chinese critical materials. Reuters reports that China provides 60% of Japan's rare earths – key components for cars and electronics. The power of this monopoly was demonstrated recently when China used its rare earth dominance to successfully pressure the U.S. into lowering tariffs. China has told tourists not to visit Japan, stopped approvals of new Japanese firms, and restricted Japanese seafood.

Ms. Takaichi's suggestion that Japan might intervene in a Taiwan Strait conflict underscores the importance of this maritime route to Tokyo. **Chart 3** illustrates the total trade volume by country passing through the Strait in 2022 (excluding China). Japan stands out significantly, with over $440 billion in trade relying on this waterway.

Much of the trade between the two neighbours would be disrupted if tensions in the Strait rise. Taiwan is a vital trading partner for Japan, particularly for critical technology. In 2025 (till September), Japan sourced 60% of its integrated circuits and over 50% of its semiconductors from Taiwan, along with significant volumes of electrical machinery **(Chart 4)**.

Tensions are also mounting over the military implications of Ms. Takaichi's remarks. In 2025, Japan's defence spending hit a 70-year high of 1.8% of GDP, a level not seen since the 1950s **(Chart 5)**. On Wednesday, Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te said that his government is going to propose $40 billion in additional defence spending in the coming years.

In 2024, Japan's forces 'scrambled' over 700 times in response to Chinese and Russian aircraft violations **(Chart 6)**. A 'scramble' refers to the emergency dispatch of aircraft by the country's Air Self-Defence Force when an unidentified aircraft is suspected of violating Japanese airspace.

Souring relations

The data for the charts were sourced from the World Bank, the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), UNCOMTRADE, SIPRI, Defense of Japan 2025, and e-Stat: a portal site for Japanese Government Statistics.

CHART 1: Japan's annual GDP growth (in %)

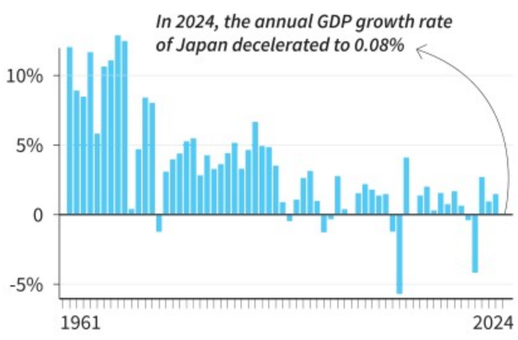


CHART 2: Japan's major import and export markets in the 2018-2024 period. (Figures are % of total export/import)

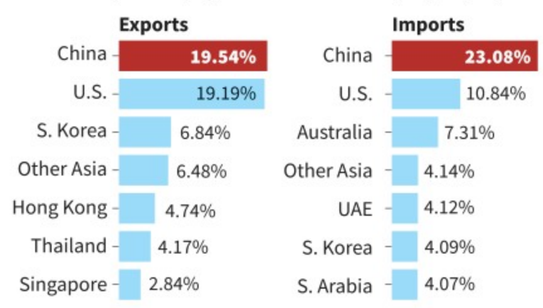


CHART 3: Value of trade transited via the Taiwan Strait in 2022 for select countries. (Figures in $ billions)

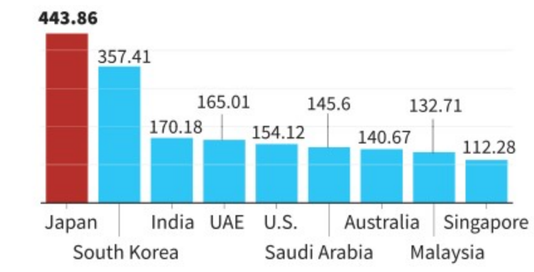


CHART 4: Taiwan's share in Japan's imports till September this year. Only top imports from Taiwan were considered.

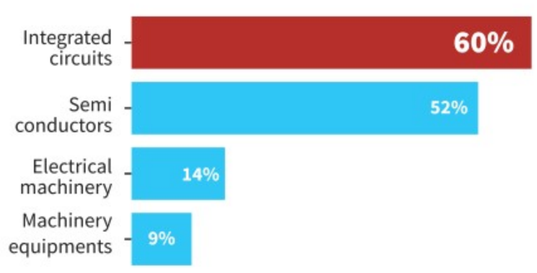


CHART 5: Japan's military expenditure as a share of its gross domestic product. Figures in %

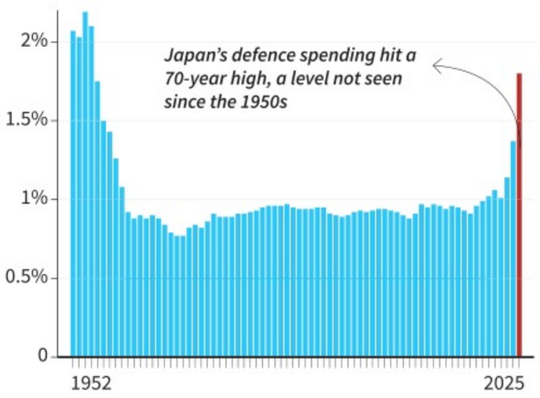
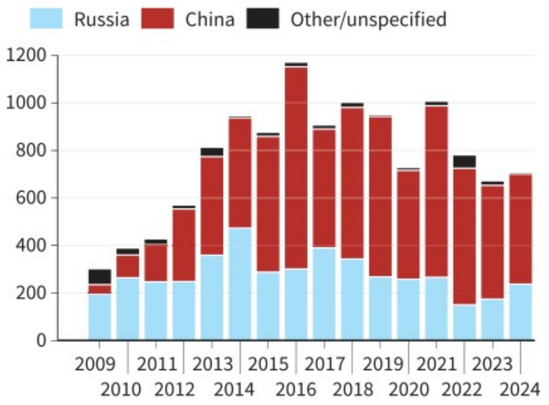


CHART 6: Total number of scrambles by Japan across years, broken down by the country involved



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 27, 1975

World Bank expert calls for expansion of coal and power

New Delhi, Nov. 26: A study of India's energy problem by a World Bank economist calls for strengthening the competitive position of substitute fuels, particularly coal and electricity, besides expansion of oil exploration "as far as practicable".

The study by Mr. P.D. Henderson says it will not be strictly correct to say that India is a victim of the "energy crisis" although the increases in the petroleum import bill has been "damaging" India's economic prospects.

A substantial part of India's consumption of energy still comes from non-commercial sources such as firewood, vegetable waste, and cow dung.

Most of India's commercial energy requirements are met from domestic sources with the exception of oil.

About 70 per cent of the total consumption of petroleum products is supplied from imports, chiefly of crude oil. These imports probably account for 20 to 25 per cent of total consumption of commercial energy and perhaps 10 per cent of total energy uses.

India has large and easily accessible coal deposits and there has been a substantial rise in production in 1974-75 after a long period of stagnation. Secondly, a number of thermal power stations have been showing better results. Recently, the results of the third well in the offshore Bombay High structure has been highly encouraging. Despite these welcome improvements, the energy situation remains difficult, Mr. Henderson notes.

The need to improve the performance of the energy industries is fully recognised in India and this has been reflected in a variety of policies and specific measures.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 27, 1925

Chinese civil war

Peking, Nov. 26: General Kub Sung-Ling's attempt to seize Mukden and capture Chang-Tso-Lin has not yet succeeded but he has taken prisoners several of Chang-Tso-Lin's most reliable Generals. He now commands a hundred thousand men compared with Chang-Tso-Lin's fifty thousand.

From Page One

No problem in Kerala SIR, EC says in SC

The EC said a small section of people have been doing BLO duties successfully, and if need be, the State Election Commission would be allocated more from the EC's own staff.

The Communist Party of India (CPI), a partner in the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) in Kerala, had separately moved the top court, seeking not only the deferment of the SIR but also a judicial direction to quash the revision process, which had spread to 12 States and Union Territories after Bihar.

Tamil Nadu argued that the EC had given "unrealistic timelines" to complete the SIR process in the State, noting that the forecast of a cyclone could also hinder the exercise.

One of the petitioners submitted that the EC had only digitised 50% enumeration forms in the past 22 days in Tamil Nadu, with the remaining forms to be completed in the eight days left before the end of enumeration stage on December 4.

Mr. Dwivedi assuaged fears by noting that once the enumerations were signed and submitted by citizens, it would be processed on time by the EC machinery.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal – leading the petitioner side which includes political parties, leaders, and State governments from Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala – said what was happening on the ground was very different from what was presented in court.

He said the EC allows booth level agents (BLAs) of political parties to upload 50 enumeration forms every day till December 4. However, they have been restricted to 10 forms daily after December 4, following the publication of the draft list. Mr. Sibal urged the court to remove the restriction.

CJI to consider plea to revive NJAC

The plea urged the 2015 judgment to be rendered *void ab initio* as it revived the Collegium system which was a "synonym for nepotism and favouritism".

"Since the Collegium came into existence, appointments to higher judiciary have been a 'riddle wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma' to borrow an expression from Winston Churchill. There has been no transparency whatsoever, at all. Even within the judiciary there has been lamentation. The Parliament which represents the will of the people, in exercise of its constituent power, had enacted 99th Constitutional Amendment Act and the NJAC Act. However, the enactments were "quashed and set aside" by this court, reducing the Parliament to an inferior tribunal," it said.

NIA arrests Faridabad man for harbouring Delhi blast accused

Soyab is the seventh person to be arrested in the case; Patiala House Court grants 10-day custody to NIA; probe agency also gets extended custody of Amir Rashid Ali in whose name the car used in explosion was registered; searches to continue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a Faridabad resident for allegedly harbouring the "terrorist" Umar-un-Nabi, who was at the wheel of the car that exploded near the Red Fort here on November 10.

The accused has been identified as Soyab of Dhauj in Faridabad, Haryana. This is the seventh arrest in the case so far.

The Patiala House Court in Delhi on Wednesday remanded Mr. Soyab to 10 days of NIA custody.

"NIA investigations have revealed that he had also provided logistical support to the terrorist Umar before the November 10 car bombing that killed several persons and injured many others outside the Red Fort in the national capital," the agency said.

An accused in the car bomb blast near Red Fort being brought to the Patiala House Court. PTI

"The agency continues to pursue various leads in connection with the suicide bombing, and has been conducting searches across States in coordination with the respective police forces in a bid to identify and track others involved in the gruesome attack," the NIA said.

The NIA earlier arrested two accused persons, and took into custody four others who were previously arrested by the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Among them were Amir Rashid Ali, in whose name the car used in the blast was registered; and Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish, who had allegedly provided technical aid to the terrorist involved in the deadly attack. They are currently in the NIA's custody. The Patiala House Court extended the NIA custody of Amir Rashid Ali on Wednesday.

Dr. Muzammil Shakeel Ganai of Pulwama in J&K; Dr. Adeel Ahmed Rather of Anantnag in J&K; Dr. Shaheen Saeed of Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh); and Mufti Irfan Ahmad Wagay of Shopian (J&K) were held by the J&K Police for allegedly being part of a "terror" module.

They had all played a key role in the terror attack that killed several persons and left many injured, as alleged by the NIA. The police had seized about 2,900 kg of explosives, during the raids in Haryana's Faridabad.

41 Maoists surrender in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur: police

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Forty-one Maoists, including 32 carrying a reward of ₹1.19 crore between them, surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Wednesday, according to the police.

Among those who surrendered are members of the PLGA Battalion Number One, considered the strongest military formation of the Maoists. Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav told journalists that the battalion was depleting due to the steady pressure mounted by security forces, adding that the killing of top Maoist military commander Madvi Hidma has further accelerated the process.

Since the beginning of the year, 528 Maoists have been arrested, 560 have joined the mainstream and a total of 144 Maoists have been killed in different encounters in Bijapur, a district of the Bastar region, a police press note said.

Arbitrary actions by China 'unhelpful' in boosting people-centric ties: Jaiswal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after Chinese officials detained an Indian citizen from Arunachal Pradesh at Shanghai international airport, Randhir Jaiswal, Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said, "arbitrary actions" by China are "most unhelpful" in nurturing "people-centric" initiatives. Mr. Jaiswal further said that "peace and tranquillity" on the India-China border is the "prerequisite" for the development of ties.

Randhir Jaiswal

Mr. Jaiswal's remarks came a day after the MEA said a "strong demarche" was sent to the Chinese side soon after the detention of Pema Wang Thongdok became known.

"Arbitrary actions by China as I referred to involving an Indian citizen from Arunachal Pradesh are most unhelpful towards efforts being made by both sides to build mutual trust and understanding and gradually move towards normalisation of bilateral relations," said Mr. Jaiswal.

Mr. Jaiswal emphasised that Arunachal Pradesh is an "integral and inalienable part of India and this is a fact that is self evident. No amount of denial by the Chinese side will change this indisputable reality." Ms. Thongdok had said that she was detained in Shanghai airport over claims "that my Indian passport was invalid as my birthplace is Arunachal Pradesh, which they claimed is Chinese territory."

India studying Dhaka's request for extradition of Sheikh Hasina: MEA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after Bangladesh sent an extradition request for deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the request was being "examined".

"The request is being examined as part of ongoing judicial and internal legal processes. We remain committed to the best interests of the people of Bangladesh, including peace, democracy, inclusion and stability in that country and will continue to engage constructively in this regard with all stakeholders," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

Ms. Hasina was given the death sentence by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal on November 17.

India rejects Pak. remarks on flag raising at Ram temple

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

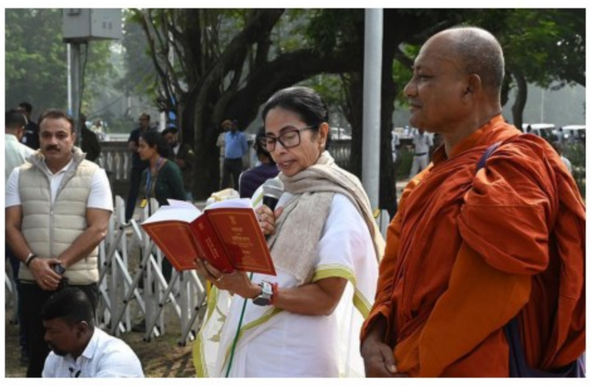
A day after Pakistan's Foreign Office expressed "deep concern" over the raising of a religious flag at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) rejected Islamabad's remarks and said Pakistan should look into its own record of "bigotry" and "repression".

"We have seen the reported remarks and reject them with the contempt that they deserve. Rather than delivering hypocritical homilies, Pakistan would do better to turn its gaze inwards and focus on its own abysmal human rights record," the Official Spokesperson of the MEA, Randhir Jaiswal, said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had raised the flag at the Ayodhya Ram Temple on Tuesday, marking the final step in the construction of the Ram Temple.

Mr. Jaiswal said, "Pakistan has no moral standing to lecture others" as it has a "stained record of bigotry, repression and systemic mistreatment of its minorities".

On Tuesday, the Pakistan government said the flag-raising event "reflected a broader pattern of pressure on religious minorities in India and a deliberate attempt at eroding Muslim cultural and religious heritage under the influence of majoritarian Hindutva ideology".


Mamata Banerjee at an event to mark Constitution Day in Kolkata on Wednesday. DEBASISH BHADURI

Bengal CM urges BLOs not to take any extreme steps

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday urged booth-level officers (BLOs) not to resort to suicide and take to extreme steps amid the rising concerns of work pressure. This came after three BLOs died in the State amid the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) process.

"You should not die by suicide because life is very precious, yet they [EC] have no mercy and it took 48 hours just to meet the BLOs and listen to them," Ms. Banerjee said during a public address.

The Chief Minister cited the deaths of BLOs in other States, including Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. BLOs were dying everywhere, the Trinamool Congress chairperson claimed.

"Their demands are justified. They had to wait 48 hours just to get an audience with the Chief Electoral Officer [CEO] to make their grievances heard. To listen to these basic demands, did they need so much time? Why do they have so much pride?" Ms. Banerjee asked.

While criticising the "hurried" SIR process at the Constitution Divas address in Kolkata, the Chief Minister said they would only abide by the Constitution, and not what the Bharatiya Janta Party says.

BLOs in the State have raised concerns about the tight deadline for completing the door-to-door enumeration form distribution, collection, and digitisation. They have asked for an extension beyond the December 4 deadline.

Many have also said that the "slow" EC portal, lack of Internet connectivity in some areas, and political pressure are tough challenges.

(Those in distress can seek counselling from Tele MANAS at 14416)

EC writes to Kolkata Police over 'breach of security'

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Election Commission sent a letter to the Kolkata Police Commissioner on Wednesday expressing concern about the safety of its staff in West Bengal.

This action followed an incident in which booth level officers (BLOs) protested outside the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office in Kolkata two days earlier. During the unrest, the BLOs clashed with the police, broke through barricades, and entered the CEO's office. The CEO was locked inside his office until around midnight as the BLOs demanded an audience to make their grievances heard.

"I am directed to state that it has come to the notice of the Election Commission of India that on 24.11.2025 a serious security breach has occurred at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal... existing security in the office of the CEO appeared to be inadequate," Sujeet Kumar Mishra, Secretary at the EC's office, Delhi, said.

The letter, addressed to the Commissioner of Police, Manoj Kumar Verma, stated that the EC had taken a "serious view" of the security breach and asked sought better security to the Election Commission staff as the elections approach.

They are to be given security to and from their office, said the EC.

SC asks if a 'foreigner' can be allowed to use Aadhaar to gain entry into poll roll

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday tested the role of Aadhaar in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, asking whether a foreigner, who has already managed to use the document to access welfare benefits such as subsidised ration, should be further allowed to exploit it to gain automatic entry into the electoral roll.

The question was posed despite the court having ordered Aadhaar to be included as a "12th document" during the Bihar SIR hearings.

"Aadhaar is the creation of a statute. Nobody can dispute the use of Aadhaar card to avail welfare benefits. But suppose a person comes from a neighbouring country to India, works as a labourer or a rickshaw puller, he accesses Aadhaar to provide subsidised ration for his children – that is our constitutional ethos and morality, but does it mean that since he has got Aadhaar, he should be made a voter also?" Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asked senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners.

The query from the Bench came shortly after Mr. Sibal opened arguments challenging the very constitutionality of the SIR exercise undertaken by the Election Commission (EC).

Mr. Sibal said the view, if

necessary, might be true in the case of some border States, but it could not be true for States like Kerala and Bihar. After Bihar, the second phase of SIR covers 51 crore people in 12 States and Union Territories, including Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala and Puducherry.

EC jurisdiction

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, the Associate Judge on the Bench, observed that EC has an inherent jurisdiction to verify and vet entries in electoral rolls which are of "doubtful integrity". Enumeration forms are part of that enquiry by the EC to check voters' credibility.

"Any exclusionary step or attempt taken by the EC is against the constitutional scheme. Asking the elector to fill up and submit an enumeration form is an exclusionary measure. Don't you think there are millions of illiterate women in this country? Will they not be excluded from the voter list? Any exclusion of a name from the electoral roll must follow a reasonable process. These are the real issues that Your Lordships need to decide...," Mr. Sibal argued.

He questioned the power given to booth level officers (BLOs) under the SIR notification to decide whether a person was a citizen or not. The petitioners have argued that SIR was only a thinly-veiled "citizenship screening" in which the burden of verification has been shifted from the EC to an already registered elector.

Justice Bagchi observed that the inherent jurisdiction of the EC to "examine, vet, verify" documents submitted to it was traceable to Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act and Article 326, which required a voter to be a citizen.

Mr. Sibal said he was not challenging the jurisdiction of the EC, but the "hasty, unreasonable and exclusionary" process adopted by the poll body.

"I accept the EC has the power. Revisions have been done before. I am saying the process of the SIR is unreasonable, both procedurally and substantively. There is no earthly reason to have to complete the process in two months," he clarified.

However, Chief Justice Kant asked whether the court could stop the SIR because of doubts that the exercise cannot be completed within the specified period.

President, PM pay tributes to victims of 26/11 attack

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday paid floral tributes at the martyrs' memorial inside the Mumbai Police Commissioner's Office, as the nation marked 17 years since the 26/11 terror attacks that claimed 166 lives.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah took to social media to honour the victims and security personnel, while reiterating India's commitment to combat terrorism.

Ms. Murmu said the nation remembers the "supreme sacrifice" of the brave soldiers with gratitude. "On the anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, I pay my humble tribute to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives to protect the people of our country. The nation remembers their supreme sacrifice with gratitude...," she wrote on social media platform X.

Prime Minister Modi called the day a solemn reminder of the need for global unity against terror. "We remember the horrific terror attacks in Mumbai on this day in 2008 and pay homage to the innocent men and women who lost their lives. We salute the brave security personnel who laid down their lives to protect several lives on that fateful day...," he said.

Modi urges Indians to prioritise their duties to the nation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In an open letter to Indians on the occasion of Constitution Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged all citizens to prioritise their duties to the nation, underscored their responsibility towards democracy through voting, and suggested that educational institutions celebrate Constitution Day by recognising first-time voters who are turning 18.

It was on November 26, 1949 that India adopted its Constitution.

Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Modi emphasised that rights arose from duties, adding that the fulfilment of duties was the path towards social harmony, economic growth, and national unity. He urged citizens to internalise duty as a guiding value in both personal and national development.

He recalled that in 2015, the Government of India officially declared November 26 as Constitution Day, emphasising how the Constitution had played a pivotal role in enabling common citizens to rise to positions of immense responsibility. "It is the power of our Constitution that enabled a person like me, coming from a humble and economically disadvantaged family, to serve as the Head of government continuously for over 24 years. I still remember the moment in 2014, when I came to Parliament for the first time and bowed, touching the steps of the greatest temple of democracy... This Constitution has given countless others, like me, the power to dream and the strength to work towards realising those dreams," he wrote.

He paid rich tributes to the architects of the Constitution, including the first President of India Rajendra Prasad and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

Calling this year's Constitution Day especially meaningful, Mr. Modi noted that it aligned with the 150th birth anniversaries of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Bhagwan Birsa Munda; the 150th anniversary of *Vande Mataram*; and the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. These moments reminded citizens of the fundamental place of duties in national life – a principle enshrined in Article 51A of the Constitution, he said.

Constitution is document of our national pride: Murmu

It will help shed the colonial mindset, says President; the success of the Constitution's faith in public wisdom, as shown by the provision of adult franchise, is lauded in many countries, she adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Constitution is the document of our national pride and a guiding text for taking the country forward with a nationalist mindset by abandoning the colonial mindset, President Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday. It is a text of our national identity, she said.

Addressing the Constitution Day event at the Central Hall of the Old Parliament building, now called Samvidhan Sadan, Ms. Murmu said the Indian Parliament, which expresses the public aspirations, served as an example for many democracies around the world. She said the success of the Constitution's faith in public wisdom, as shown by the provision of adult franchise, was lauded in several countries.

"Women, youth, the poor, farmers, members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, people from disadvantaged sections, the middle class, and the neo-middle class are strengthening our democratic system from the Panchayat to Parliament. Our inclusive democracy encourages public participation," she said.

President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and other dignitaries at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

Support to citizens

By moving forward in accordance with the constitutional system, the President said the executive, legislature, and the judiciary had strengthened the development of the country and given stability and support to the lives of citizens. "The members of both Houses of Parliament have not only taken our country forward but have also developed a healthy tradition of deep political thinking. In the coming eras, when comparative studies of various democracies and constitutions will be conducted, Indian democracy and Constitution will be described in golden letters," Ms. Murmu said.

Stating that the MPs were the bearers, creators, and witnesses of the glorious tradition of the Constitution and democracy, the President expressed confidence that under the guidance of Parliament, the resolve to make India a developed nation would definitely be fulfilled.

She said the ideals that expressed the soul of the Constitution were social, economic, and political justice; liberty; equality; and fraternity. On all these dimensions, the MPs had actualised the visions of the makers of the Constitution, she added.

The President said that the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Act would usher in women-led development and mentioned the three important laws related to the criminal justice system.

Besides Ms. Murmu, those on the dais included Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Opposition leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi, Union Ministers J. P. Nadda and Kiren Rijiju, and Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Harivansh.

Mr. Radhakrishnan, who addressed the event before the President, said, "The soul of our Constitution has proved that Bharat is one and will be one forever".

"India will become a developed country by 2047 if the Constitution is followed in letter and spirit," Mr. Birla said.

CJI calls for national judicial policy to reduce divergence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

CJI Surya Kant

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Wednesday pushed for a uniform and national judicial policy to reinforce predictability in judicial approach among the Supreme Court and the State High Courts.

"It is high time we minimise unpredictability and avoidable divergence that may arise simply because there are 25 High Courts or multiple Benches of the Supreme Court. Justice cannot resemble a set of instruments producing harmonious notes in isolation but discordant sounds when played together. Instead, we must strive for a judicial symphony – one rhythm, expressed in many voices and languages, but guided by a common constitutional score," Chief Justice Kant said in his Constitution Day address at the Supreme Court.

The CJI said a uniform judicial policy would encourage coherence across jurisdictions and bring more clarity and consistency in the decisions of the various constitutional courts on seminal questions of law.

Chief Justice Kant said a close look at the functioning of the justice delivery system still showed a "disquieting gap" between the constitutional vision and the experiences of the multitude, particularly the marginalised sections of society, for whom access to justice remains elusive due to exorbitant cost, language, distance, and delay.

"These barriers weaken the very overarching goal we seek to protect and, in doing so, magnify existing inequalities... First step to access to justice: the first step in that direction must be through the augmentation of judicial infrastructure in aid of effective justice delivery," the CJI said.

The CJI highlighted the modern dispute resolution process of mediation as a cost-effective, participatory, and deeply humane alternative.

'India-Canada uranium deal possible because of 2008 pact with U.S.'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Responding to reports that India and Canada were close to finalising a deal involving the supply of uranium, the Congress on Wednesday asserted that such a development was possible because of the 2008 Indo-U.S. civil nuclear agreement under the leadership of the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh despite the opposition from the BJP.

"This deal has been made possible entirely because of the Indo-U.S. nuclear agreement of 2008 masterminded by Dr. Manmohan Singh in the face of opposition by the BJP," Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X, underscoring the agreement's strategic legacy.

Mr. Ramesh's remarks came amid fresh momentum in India-Canada ties following a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Canadian counterpart, Mark Carney, in Johannesburg on Sunday on the sidelines of G20 summit.

$2.8-billion pact

The Congress leader also shared the online link of media reports, indicating that India and Canada were close to sealing a $2.8-billion pact for long-term uranium supplies over the next decade.

According to the External Affairs Ministry, the two leaders discussed expanding cooperation in defence and space, and agreed to accelerate engagement in trade, investment, technology, and energy.

BJP, RSS subverting constitutional principles, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of "subverting Constitutional principles in a calculated manner" and undermining the very document they now claim to revere.

Marking Constitution Day as "Samvidhan Bachao Divas", the party said the ruling dispensation was damaging institutions and eroding foundational values.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a video statement, said the government's homage to the Constitution was "pure pretence", asserting that those who "never contributed to its making" were now seeking political mileage from it. He accused the BJP-RSS of showing respect for the Constitution only out of "political expediency", and said principles such as justice, equality, freedom, secularism, and socialism were under strain today.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi called the Constitution a "sacred promise" to every citizen. "The Constitution is the protective shield of the poor and the deprived," he said.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh stressed that the RSS "had no role whatsoever" in drafting the Constitution. "In fact its (the RSS's) role after the Constitution was adopted was to attack and undermine it, a role taken forward by the present PM and HM (Home Minister) who have been subverting Constitutional principles, provisions, and practices in a calculated manner," he said in a post on X.

CEC to head International IDEA in 2026

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar is set to assume the role of the Chairperson of the 35-nation International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) for the year 2026. He will take over the position on December 3 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Government of Tamil Nadu
TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT
AUCTION NOTICE

Ref. No. SF1/7009/2025 Dated : 25-11-2025

The e–auction for sale of Karuvel / Seemai Karuvel Social Forestry Plantations of Tamil Nadu Forest Department will be conducted through MSTC Portal from second week to third week of December 2025 in the districts of Tirunelveli SF/ Tenkasi / Thoothukudi / Krishnagiri SF & Extention / Trichy / Pudukkotai / Ariyalur / Perambalur / Thiruvarur / Vellore / Tiruvannamalai / Kanchipuram / Villupuram / Cuddalore / Kallakurichi / Madurai / Theni / Sivagangai / Virudhunagar SF / Ramanathapuram. For further details visit website of MSTC "**www.mstcecommerce.com**"

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
DIPR / 1405 / Display / 2025 (Head of Forest Force)

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design &QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavana, KG Road, Bengaluru- 560 009.

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only Through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders in Two Cover System from Eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
IFT No:BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA/3755/2025-26		Date: 24.11.2025
1.	Construction of Centralized Water and Meter Testing Laboratory at CJF premises, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru.	₹ 3,91,08,234/- / ₹ 5,87,000/-
2.	Construction of Marriage Hall (Ambedkar Samudaya Bhavana) at T K Halli.	₹ 3,80,34,663/- / ₹ 5,71,000/-

Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **11.12.2025** upto **16:00** hrs. The Technical Bids will be opened on **12.12.2025** at **16:00** hrs.

The details regarding participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/4024/CCL/2025-26 Chief Engineer (Design & Quality Assurance)

भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal
Bhopal Bypass Road, Bhauri, Bhopal-462 066

Date: 24.11.2025

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal, an Institute of National Importance, established by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India is committed to foster quality Education and Research. The Institute is looking for dedicated and committed citizens of India to fill up the following advertisements of the various **Non-Teaching Positions** on Direct Recruitment and Deputation basis (including short term contract basis) through online mode.

Details of vacancies:

[A] Advt. No. NT-01/2025 on Direct Recruitment:

S. No.	Name of the Post(s)	Pay Level	Group	No. of Vacancies SC	ST	OBC (NCL)	UR	EWS	Total	PwBD#
1.	Junior Technical Assistant	5	C	-	-	-	1	-	1	1-PwBD [Sub-category: b]
2.	Junior Assistant (MS)	3	C	-	-	1	3	1	5	
3.	Lab Assistant	3	C	1	1	1	6	-	9	
Total				**1**	**1**	**2**	**10**	**1**	**15**	

#PwBD: The candidature of PwBD will be considered as per the rules. However, preference will be given to PwBD candidates falling under SC/ ST/ OBC (NCL)/ EWS/ UR categories.

[B] Advt. No. NT-02/2025 on Deputation (Including short term contract basis)

S. No.	Name of the post(s)	Pay Level	Group	Total Vacancy
1.	Executive Engineer (Civil/Electrical)	11	A	1
2.	Assistant Executive Engineer (Civil/Electrical)	10	A	1
3.	Medical Officer	10	A	1
4.	Physical Education Instructor	7	B	1
5.	Counselling Superintendent	7	B	1
	Total:			**5**

For full advertisement with details of qualifications, experience etc. as per Uniform Recruitment Rules of IISERs **(Part-A)**, General Terms and Conditions **(Part-B)** and submission of application through online mode, please visit the Institute's website (Recruitment portal) http://iiserb.ac.in/join_iiserb.

Important Dates:

Opening date for submission of online application:	Date: 24.11.2025
Last Date & Time of closing of Registration and submission of online application	Date:23.12.2025 **(11:59 P.M.)**
Last date of receipt of application(s) at IISER, Bhopal **(Hard Copy)**	Date:30.12.2025 **(5:00 P.M.)**
The crucial date for determining age/qualification/experience	Date:23.12.2025

Note: Any corrigendum/changes/updates shall be made available only on the Institute's website (Recruitment portal) http://iiserb.ac.in/join_iiserb. The candidates are advised to check the website on a regular basis for updates, if any.

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INBRIEF

Cabinet approves Phase 2 of Pune Metro Rail project

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved Phase 2 of the Pune Metro Rail project, at a total estimated cost of ₹9,857.85 crore. In this phase, (Kharadi-Hadapsar-Swargate-Khadakwasla) Line 4 and Line 4A (Nal Stop-Warje-Manik Baug) would be completed. Together spanning 31.636 km with 28 elevated stations, Line 4 and 4A will connect IT hubs, commercial zones, educational institutions, and residential clusters across East, South, and West Pune. The project will be implemented by Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (Maha-Metro), which will carry out all civil, electrical, mechanical, and systems works. The work for Phase 2 is expected to be completed within five years.

Two teens die in Haryana as basketball poles fall on them

Two teenage basketball players have died in separate accidents in Haryana over the past two days after court poles collapsed on them during practice sessions. Both players belonged to Rohtak. Hardik, 15, was practising at Lakhan Majra sports complex on Tuesday when he leaped towards the hoop and attempted to hang from it. The pole gave away and landed on his chest. In a similar incident, Aman suffered injuries when a basketball pole collapsed on him during a practice session inside a school in Bahadurgarh on November 23. He died a day later. Haryana Sports Minister Gaurav Gautam said delivering justice was his "top priority''.

Delhi HC seeks Centre's reply to British academic's plea

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to respond to a plea filed by Indian-born British academic Nitasha Kaul, challenging the decision to blacklist her from entering India and cancelling her Overseas Citizen of India status. Justice Sachin Datta issued notice on the application filed by Ms. Kaul, who is a Professor of International Relations at the University of Westminster, seeking interim relief to travel to India for three weeks to tend to her aged and ailing mother. In her petition, Ms. Kaul said she had been repeatedly targeted for her critical academic writings and public engagement.

NHRC seeks Railways report following complaint over meat

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) recently issued a notice to the Indian Railways over a complaint alleging that "only halal-processed meat" was being served on trains, which affected "freedom of choice and religion" for others and creates "unfair discrimination''. The notice was issued on Monday, November 24, by the Bench of NHRC member Priyank Kanoongo while taking cognisance of the complaint filed by Sunil Ahirwar from Bhopal. Directing the Chairman, Railway Board, New Delhi, to get the allegations made in the complaint inquired into, the NHRC sought an action-taken report within two weeks.

SC panel suggests creation of a Goa tiger reserve in phases

Panel proposes that 468.6 sq. km area, which contains 102 households, be notified as 'core' and buffer areas of the reserve in the first phase; another 208 sq. km, with 612 households, can be considered later

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court-appointed committee has recommended the creation of a tiger reserve in Goa, but in a phased manner, so as to first incorporate areas with a lower human presence.

The top court is expected to consider the report of its Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in the next hearing of the case that involves the Goa government and the Goa Foundation, a non-government organisation.

The CEC came into the picture after the Goa government challenged a Bombay High Court order of July 2023, which directed the State to notify five protected areas – the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhagwan Mahavir National Park, Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, and Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary, collectively referred to as the "Mhadei WLS and Other Areas" – as a tiger reserve, within a period of three months.

The Goa government was reluctant to have the areas be declared as a tiger reserve on the grounds that nearly "one lakh people" would be affected, though it later conceded in its own affidavit that there were only about 1,274 households in the 33 villages within the five protected areas, translating to approximately 5,000 to 6,000 individuals. It also claimed that there were no "resident" tigers in Goa, arguing that the handful that pass through Goan forests were a "transient" population. *The Hindu* reported earlier this week that the Goa government had adopted contradictory positions regarding the "resident" status of tigers in the State.

The Goa government has adopted contradictory positions regarding the "resident" status of tigers in the State. FILE PHOTO

The committee recommended that Goan parks and sanctuaries "directly contiguous" to the Kali Tiger Reserve in adjoining Karnataka, which is known to host a permanent tiger presence, form the "core" part of the Goa reserve. Those areas adjoining the buffer zone of the Kali Tiger Reserve can be considered for designation as the "buffer zone" of the proposed Goa reserve, it added.

"Such a phased approach is likely to minimise disturbance to local communities, while ensuring that the most ecologically sensitive and least inhabited areas are brought under enhanced protection at the earliest stage," it said.

This means that the Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary (50 households) and Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary (41 households), adding up to a 296.7 sq. km. area, will be incorporated into the core zone of the proposed Goa Tiger Reserve in the first phase. Protected areas contiguous with the Kali Tiger Reserve's buffer zone, which have minimal human habitation, namely, the northern part of the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary (nine households) and Bhagwan Mahavir National Park (two households), adding another 171 sq. km., will be considered as the buffer of the proposed Goa Tiger Reserve in the first phase.

"The total area proposed for notification as the Goa Tiger Reserve is 468.60 sq. km. This area is fully contiguous with the 1,345 sq. km core and buffer of the Kali Tiger Reserve, and together they form an integrated protected landscape of approximately 1,814 sq. km," the report noted.

The Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary, spanning 208 sq. km and containing 612 households, shares only a "limited stretch of boundary" with the buffer of the Kali Tiger Reserve. "These areas may, therefore, be considered, if necessary, at a later stage, after adequate consultation," it said.

Govt. justifies move to impose ban on online money games

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Online money gaming entities have no right to trade or profession at the cost of human lives, as money sourced through these activities are laundered or used as funding for terror besides being a reason for increasing addiction and fatalities among young users, the Centre has told the Supreme Court

The government was justifying the introduction of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act to curb the rapid spread of online money games, creating "serious risks for individuals, families and the nation". Companies and online platforms, represented by senior advocate C.A. Sundaram and advocate Rohini Musa, have urged the top court to stay the law.

The government, in an affidavit on Tuesday, argued that an estimated 45 crore people had been negatively affected by online money games and faced a loss of more than ₹2,000 crore.

"There can be no right to profession or trade at the cost of human lives, which online money gaming is known to take, month after month, across the country," the Centre submitted. Right to trade and profession is a fundamental freedom under Article 19 of the Constitution.

The government said "systemic legal violations" linked to online money gaming (OMG) platforms include large-scale tax evasion, money laundering, cross border illicit fund flows and "vulnerabilities" relating to potential terror financing and other economic offences.

It said "money mule accounts" had been identified by banks in which customer identities were found linked to OMG websites. "OMG displayed an increased popularity after COVID and it coincides with an uptick in fraud cases involving online gaming, gambling and illegal loan apps," the government pointed out.

Gaming-related suspicious transactions overlap with cybercrime and fraud, the affidavit said. It said identity theft and personal data compromise was a real danger on many OMG platforms. "Interactions with unknown players further expose users to intruders, predators, spyware, viruses and worms," it said.

Trade unions, farmers body protest against new labour codes

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A joint forum of 10 Central trade unions, farmers' body Samyukt Kisan Morcha, and members of the All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) held nationwide protests on Wednesday against the four labour codes recently notified by the government.

The government notified all four Labour Codes on November 21, disregarding objections from labour unions. Passed by Parliament in 2019 and 2020, the government claims these codes introduce major reforms, including universal social security for gig workers, mandatory appointment letters for all employees, statutory minimum wages, and timely payment across sectors.

In a memorandum to President Droupadi Murmu, the joint forum said the codes "negate our right to strike, make union registration problematic, ease de-recognition of unions, and make conciliation and adjudication difficult by winding up labour courts and introducing tribunals for workers, while granting registrars overriding powers to de-register unions".

The memorandum demanded the immediate repeal of the labour codes. AITUC general secretary Amarjeet Kaur said protests were held in over 500 districts, with participation from workers across sectors. AIPEF chairman Shailendra Dubey said many power sector workers joined the protest against the labour codes and the Electricity Amendment Bill, which he said promotes privatisation by allowing multiple distribution licensees to use government discom networks.

Students vandalise private varsity in Bhopal over food and water quality

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Hundreds of students waited outside the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) University near Bhopal on Wednesday to leave for their homes, a day after they protested against allegedly contaminated water and unhygienic food on the campus, torching multiple vehicles and vandalising campus property.

According to the police, more than 3,000 students protested on the campus in Sehore district on Tuesday night after several students fell ill with jaundice, allegedly due to poor-quality food and water. Students set fire to an ambulance, a bus, and at least three cars, and vandalised hostels, the Chancellor's residence, and various other parts of the campus.

Police personnel from various stations arrived on the campus at night and brought the situation under control, Akash Amalkar, Sub-Divisional Police Officer of Ashta, said.

"The students have been assured that their issues will be addressed and necessary action will be taken," Mr. Amalkar said.

He said that a first information report (FIR) had been lodged against a warden, Prashant Kumar Pandey, and five other staff members, on charges of assault, based on a complaint from a student. The FIR has been lodged under Sections 190(2), 296 A, 115 (2), 351(3) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

"We also received a video in which Mr. Pandey and some security staff members are seen beating up some students. We have initiated legal action and will question them based on further investigation," he said.

After the violent protests, the university administration declared holiday till December 8, prompting students to leave in a hurry.

VIT Bhopal Registrar K. K. Nair, however, said that vacating the campus was not compulsory and that only the classes had been suspended. "We have more than 12,000 students from across the country. So, if anybody wants to stay back on the campus, they are free to do so," he said, adding that the situation was now peaceful.

Mr. Nair said at least 33 students had fallen ill with jaundice in the past month and had been treated at the Chirayu Medical College and Hospital in Bhopal. Some students have alleged that they have been complaining about poor-quality food and water for over a month, but the university administration did not address their concerns, forcing them to resort to protest.

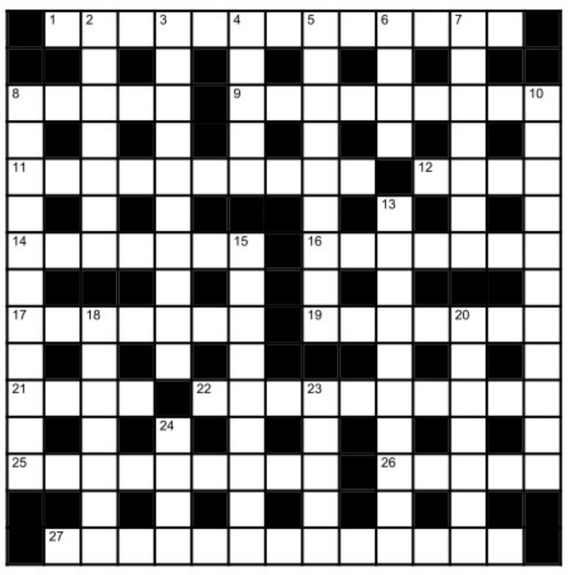
Homeward: Students leave the VIT campus in Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh on Wednesday. A.M.FARUQUI

CROSSWORD + 14650

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Model married hot, hep bisexual (13)
8 Fine hotel in spot alongside river (5)
9 Features trains leaving France for capital of Turkey (9)
11 Facing a very difficult situation, miner exits frantically (2,8)
12 Japanese seasoning picked up by mom is outstanding (4)
14 Fine white linen of maiden in taxi, most expensive (7)
16 Relaxing with slim girl after drinking a bit of wine (7)
17 Company reviewed suggestion to incorporate department making jam (7)
19 Copper and gold discovered at large Mexican city (7)
21 Hunter nearly snares sea-eagle (4)
22 Arrives outside bar with ultimately glamorous beauty (10)
25 Prince left serious after bad attack (9)
26 Rise up to welcome many Muslim rulers (5)
27 Enters into a dispute with member wanting difficulty in puzzles (7,6)

Down

2 English batter may be excellent at first glance (7)
3 Quiet about demagogue beginning to impose ban (10)
4 Put out pastry to entertain queen (5)
5 One probing cartel is remarkably level-headed (9)
6 Kill Mafia boss outside institute (2,2)
7 Model in retreat cuddling bisexual lady on island in capital city (7)
8/20 Be on the verge of breaking a law, like reckless yachtsman might do? (4,5,2,3,4)
10 They are seen in bars, straying on vacation, picking up attractive girls (4,7)
13 Murderer outside pub reverses vehicle finally, runs over Chilean police officer (10)
15 Nice to be tipsy, drinking Old Monk (9)
18 Talk about origin of indigenous tree (7)
20 See 8
23 Former partners introducing company's top managers briefly (5)
24 Opening of academy by rising star (4)

SUDOKU

4					9		1	
				4			2	
		5	3		7		8	6
					8	1		
		2	5		1	3		
		3	2					
6	3		4		2	9		
	7			5				
	4		9					7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6713 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

I	N	D	I	C	A	T	E	
M		A		O		H		B
B	A	S	E	N	J	I		L
I		S		C		C		O
B	L	I	N	I		K	O	W
E		E		E		A		H
			A	R	U	S	H	O
T		S		G		T		T
W	O	O	D	E	N	H	E	A
I		F				I		N
T	O	T	H	E	H	E	A	D
C		E		L		V		C
H	E	N	B	A	N	E		O
E		U		T		S		L

P	L	A	C	I	D			
	B		I		A		E	
L	U	M	P	S	U	M		
	O		B		T		I	
K	O	W	T	O	W	I	N	G
	H				R		O	
F	B	L	O	O	D			
	T		R		N		S	
A	D	E	D					
	N			A		A		R
K	E	D	G	E				
	C		F		S		T	
	O	R	A	T	O	R	Y	
	L		S		R		P	
E	D	I	T	A	B	L	E	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	6	1	5	3	4	8	9	7
8	5	9	6	2	7	4	1	3
7	4	3	8	1	9	5	6	2
4	8	2	7	5	1	9	3	6
3	9	5	4	6	2	1	7	8
1	7	6	3	9	8	2	4	5
5	2	7	1	4	6	3	8	9
9	1	8	2	7	3	6	5	4
6	3	4	9	8	5	7	2	1

FAITH

Muruga likes *daana*, bhakti

The mind is responsible for joys and sorrows. If we control the mind, then the result is joy. But if we allow the mind to lead us, misery is the result. Arunagirinatha emphasises this in his Kandar Anubhuti, said So. So. Meenakshisundaram in a discourse. Arunagirinatha says it is very easy for the mind to develop an attachment to worldly possessions. But it is very difficult for it to focus on the right things. So Arunagirinatha addresses his mind, and says there are two things that must be done, if he is to be saved from the cycle of births and deaths. The first thing to do is to give unstintingly. One should not give reluctantly, or give because we want to impress people with our generosity. We must give wholeheartedly. Often when someone asks us for help, we pretend that we are not financially sound. We should give joyfully, and never take pride in our acts of charity. We should always give in the name of Murugan, for it is He who has blessed us with wealth. If we do this, and keep the mind focused on Murugan, liberation is guaranteed.

Not everyone has the same capacity to give. Some may simply not have enough funds to donate to a good cause. The rich can give from their wealth. If it is possible to help others through some kind of selfless service, this too is good, for it paves the way for detachment. Initially, giving brings us joy, and in the long run it brings the even greater joy of being in God's company, for *daana* and bhakti gladden Muruga's heart. Arunagirinatha uses the word *viduvaai* (give up) twice in this verse, to show that doing good deeds, without any expectations, will destroy the effect of past karmas, and of future karmas.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	85,610	1.21
US Dollar	89.22	0.00
Gold	1,30,100	0.93
Brent oil	62.31	0.59

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2315.00	-17.90
Adani Ports	1506.20	22.30
Apollo Hosp	7393.00	62.50
Asian Paints	2874.00	-1.80
Axis Bank	1290.20	23.90
Bajaj Auto	9164.00	116.00
Bajaj Finserv	2085.10	54.90
Bajaj Finance	1010.70	24.50
Bharat Elec	415.30	5.05
Bharti Airtel	2126.80	-34.80
Cipla	1523.80	16.30
Coal India	377.35	7.30
Dr Reddys Lab	1248.00	11.90
Eicher Motors	7198.50	-20.00
Eternal Ltd.	306.85	4.55
Grasim Ind	2744.00	57.20
HCL Tech	1617.90	16.80
HDFC Bank	1003.90	14.10
HDFC Life	787.55	21.00
Hindalco	800.80	11.45
Hind Unilever	2425.20	11.10
ICICI Bank	1375.00	17.20
IntGlobeAvi	5913.00	138.00
Infosys	1557.90	27.30
ITC	402.30	1.50
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	308.00	7.20
JSW Steel	1154.40	42.40
Kotak Bank	2103.80	33.90
L&T	4062.00	65.30
M&M	3686.40	17.10
Maruti Suzuki	16156.00	267.00
Max Healthcare	1162.60	4.50
NestleIndia	1276.80	13.60
NTPC	326.10	2.40
ONGC	247.70	2.35
PowerGrid Corp	275.05	1.60
Reliance Ind	1569.90	30.20
SBI Life	2029.10	-1.90
State Bank	983.90	0.30
Shriram Finance Ltd.	856.60	18.35
Sun Pharma	1804.90	28.10
TataConsumerProduct	1185.30	7.60
Tata Steel	169.67	3.34
TCS	3162.90	43.70
Tech Mahindra	1520.40	25.70
Titan	3897.70	42.60
Tata Motors PV	359.25	6.80
Trent Ltd.	4292.40	48.50
UltraTech Cement	11759.00	179.00
Wipro	250.19	4.55

M&M sells ₹8,000 cr. worth EVs in H1 FY26

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd (M&M) said it had achieved electric vehicle (EV) sales worth over ₹8,000 crore in H1 FY26, making it the number one player in India in terms of half year revenue generated from electric vehicle sales.

Cabinet approves ₹7,280 cr. scheme for rare earth magnets

The first-of-its-kind initiative aims to establish 6,000 MTPA of integrated rare earth permanent magnet manufacturing in India, govt. says

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shifting gear: The auto industry, in particular, has welcomed the decision, saying it is a pivotal step towards self reliance. REUTERS

In yet another push to secure India's supplies of rare earth magnets, the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a new "first-of-its-kind" scheme, with a financial outlay of ₹7,280 crore, to manufacture Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPM) in India.

The approval of this scheme, named the 'Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets', comes two days after Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal specifically noted that one of the areas in which India and Canada have "tremendous potential" to cooperate on was in critical minerals.

This was in the context of the two countries restarting talks on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

"This first-of-its-kind initiative aims to establish 6,000 metric tonnes per annum (MTPA) of integrated Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) manufacturing in India, thereby enhancing self-reliance and positioning India as a key player in the global REPM market," the government said in a release.

REPMs are vital components that have applications in EVs, renewable energy, electronics, aerospace, and defence sectors. According to the government, the scheme will support the creation of integrated REPM manufacturing facilities, involving the conversion of rare earth oxides to metals, metals to alloys, and alloys to finished REPMs.

The total financial outlay of the scheme of ₹7,280 crore, will comprise a sales-linked incentives of ₹6,450 crore on REPMs for five years and a capital subsidy of ₹750 crore for the setting up of an aggregate of 6,000 MTPA of REPM manufacturing facilities.

The plan is to allocate the total capacity of 6,000 MTPA to five beneficiaries through a global competitive bidding process with each beneficiary being allotted up to 1,200 MTPA.

The total duration of the scheme is to be seven years from the date of award, including a 2-year gestation period for setting up an integrated REPM manufacturing facility, and 5 years for incentive disbursement on the sale of REPM.

The auto industry, in particular, has welcomed the decision, saying it is a pivotal step towards self reliance.

"This initiative is a significant step toward building a resilient and stable supply chain, particularly for components and subassemblies essential for the production of electrified vehicles," Shailesh Chandra, President of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said.

"This initiative will not only reduce import dependence but also provide long-term resilience to the automotive supply chain, encourage investments in advanced materials, and position India strongly in global value chains for EVs and clean energy," Vikrampati Singhania, President of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) said.

PM Modi opens Safran's MRO for LEAP engines in Hyderabad

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday virtually inaugurated the largest maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) facility, France's Safran has established globally for LEAP engines in Hyderabad. Mr. Modi urged the firm to explore possibilities of aircraft engine and component design in India. A LEAP engine is a modern, fuel-efficient engine that powers several narrow-body aircraft.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during the virtual inauguration of the facility.

Stating that the country is keen on promoting 'Design in India' on a large scale across every sector, the Prime Minister said India's vast Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) network and its young talent pool will provide significant support for such efforts.

Safran Aerospace, which works extensively in aerospace propulsion systems, should also leverage India's talent and opportunities for propulsion design and manufacturing, he said, participating through video conferencing in the function, which was attended by Telangana's Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Union Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu, and the top leadership of Safran among others.

India is "dreaming big, doing bigger and delivering best" on the back of some of the biggest reforms the country has undertaken since independence to attract global investment and industries, Mr. Modi said.

"Today in most sectors, 100% foreign direct investment is possible through automatic routes. Even in sectors like defence, where earlier the private sector had no space, 74% FDI has now been opened through automatic routes. [Likewise] A major approach has also been adopted in the space sector," Mr. Modi said, adding such steps have sent a clear message to the world that India welcomes investments and innovation.

The government's production linked incentive (PLI) schemes have attracted global manufacturers towards 'Make in India', he added.

With the opening of the 45,000 sq.m Safran facility, set up with an initial investment ₹1,300 crore, at the GMR Aerospace and Industrial Park in Hyderabad, India's aviation sector is taking a new flight.

INBRIEF

Nifty jumps 1.24%, its fastest pace since June this year

Benchmark NSE Nifty 50 jumped 1.24% to 26,205.30 points on Wednesday, recording the highest single day increase since June 2025. While the BSE Sensex increased 1.21% to 85,609.51 points. "The rally was driven by growing confidence in potential rate cuts from both U.S. Federal Reserve and the RBI in its upcoming MPC meeting," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Research, Wealth Management, at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.

Bajaj Auto enters e-rickshaw segment with two variants

Bajaj Auto on Wednesday announced its entry into the e-rickshaw category with the unveiling of Bajaj Riki. The company is introducing two models: Riki P4005 passenger variant, priced at ₹1,90,890 (ex-showroom) and the Riki C4005 cargo model at ₹2,00,876 (ex-showroom). The P4005 features a 5.4 kWh battery offering a certified range of 149 km, while the cargo variant provides 164 km range, the company said.

Tesla Centre at Gurugram to open on Thursday

Tesla announced its first Tesla Center in Gurugram will open on Thursday. The outlet will provide services such as retail, after-sales, delivery and charging at one location. Since its market launch in July, Tesla India has set up Experience Centers in Mumbai and Delhi, and three charging sites in these locations. With the upcoming commissioning at One Horizon in Gurugram soon, Tesla will operate four charging stations across India, equipped with 16 superchargers and 10 destination chargers.

Reliance JV to set up 1 GW data centre in Visakhapatnam at ₹98,000 crore

V. Raghavendra
Aroon Deep
VIJAYAWADA, NEW DELHI

The proposed data centre complex would feature high-density AI-ready racks.

The Andhra Pradesh Government has announced the setting up of a 1 Gigawatt (GW) data centre by Digital Connexion, a joint venture of Reliance Industries, Brookfield and Digital Realty, in Visakhapatnam at an investment of ₹98,000 crore by 2030. The MoU for the project has been signed with the AP Economic Development Board (APEDB) on Wednesday, according to an official release.

The proposed complex would be built to global standards and feature high-density AI-ready racks, dedicated power substations, redundant power feeds, and robust connectivity to support hyper-scalers, enterprise clients, cloud services, and future AI workloads.

The State government would extend full support for the project's seamless execution, which includes facilitating the allocation of 400 acres of land, expediting regulatory and environmental clearances, ensuring uninterrupted power supply, connectivity, and other essential infrastructure.

The investment by Reliance and its global partners strengthens A.P.'s long-term vision of transforming the State into a national hub for AI, cloud infrastructure, and technology-driven growth. It reinforces the government's commitment to building a future-ready digital economy that empowers investors, industries, and the youth alike paving the way for sustained growth, innovation, and competitiveness on a global scale, the government said.

The MoU marks the latest big-ticket investment in the data centre and electronics manufacturing space – two major focus points for the Union government – that has come in States with National Democratic Alliance (NDA) governments. Visakhapatnam will also host Google's AI Hub, a data centre representing the tech giant's largest investment in India, of ₹87,520 crore. Opposition leaders have accused the Centre of redirecting investments originally planned for States governed by non-NDA governments.

Of the ten semiconductor fabrication and OSAT plants approved under the India Semiconductor Mission, only one, Continental Device India Pvt. Ltd.'s Mohali facility, is in a State with an Opposition-led State government.

AP recently announced an MoU with Tillman Global to build a data centre campus for ₹15,000 crore.

IRDAI concerned over rising customer complaints: Chairman

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

The insurers were urged to strengthen their internal systems to ensure strict compliance with timelines

Expressing concern over rising customer complaints, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) chairman Ajay Seth on Wednesday underscored the need for the insurance companies to significantly improve the quality and timeliness of resolutions.

The insurers were urged to adopt a more proactive, policyholder-centric approach and strengthen their internal systems to ensure strict compliance with prescribed timelines, IRDAI said after Mr. Seth chaired a meeting with Chief Compliance Officers and Grievance Redressal Officers of all insurers.

Insurers were advised to develop a clear and standardised operating procedure for classifying consumer references into complaints and service requests.

Mr. Seth emphasised the centrality of trust in insurance and the critical role played by compliance and grievance redressal functions in upholding the trust, the insurance regulator said in a release.

'No bias in RBI's inflation forecast'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

There is no systemic bias in the central bank's inflation forecast, Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta clarified, adding that reducing forecasting error was important.

"While minimising the forecast errors is equally important, there is no systematic bias in the forecast. It is not that the RBI's forecast is biased in any particular way. As far as the growth is concerned, again we use a variety of approaches and models," she said while speaking at an event organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) to explain the changes in the new CPI base revision, here on Wednesday.

The Deputy Governor's comments came in the backdrop of economists criticising the RBI for having an overstated CPI forecast and hence a hawkish "bias" in monetary policy, and that a rate cut was warranted. Prices increased at a rate of 0.25% in October 2025, making it the slowest pace ever.

Ms. Gupta also spoke about initiatives brought in by the RBI to disseminate data. The Deputy Governor said that the balance of payments (BoP) data is soon expected to be released on a monthly basis.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited for supply of (1) 10,00,000 Kgs of Cow Ghee from national wide diaries (2) 90,000 Kgs of Cardamom (ELACHI) 8MM through e-tenders to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site **http://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** For further details contact phone numbers: **0877-2264079, 2264555, FAX No: 0877- 2264554.**

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.302) Date:26-11-2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Addl. Director General of Police, Operations (OCTOPUS & GreyHounds), Telangana, Hyderabad.

Rc.No. OCTOPU-SSEC/STRE/IETS/3/2025-S Section, Date: 26-11-2025.

RE-TENDER (Short Tender) NOTIFICATION
e-Procurement

e-Tender is invited from the Manufacturers and Tender Specific Authorized Dealers/Distributors for the supply of following item to the Police Department, OCTOPUS, Telangana, Hyderabad.

Sl. No.	Group	Item Code	Tender Number	Name of the Article to be Supplied	Approx. Qty Required	Submission of tender in days
1	Operation & Safety equipment	OSE/02	02/2025	Bullet Resistant Helmets	100 nos.	7 days.

Tender schedule form and conditions of contract can be obtained from **29-11-2025/10:30 hours to 05-12-2025/14:30 hours** from e-Procurement portal (**www.tender.telangana.gov.in**).

for Addl. Director General of Police, Operations (OCTOPUS & GreyHounds), Telangana, Hyderabad.

DIPR R.O.No.11429-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 26-11-2025

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in Contact No. 9646118754

Tender Enquiry No. 344/HPs/EDII/RSD-155 **Dated: 08.10.2025**

Dy. CE/ Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-Tender against Tender Specifications no. 344/HPs/ED-II/RSD-155 Dated. 08.10.2025 for Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 4 no. Microprocessor based filed mounted dual path Ultrasonic transit-time flow meter (UTTF) with non-invasive clamp on transducers at RSD Hydel Power Plant.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from **29.11.2025** onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C 827/25 1079/12/2025-26/5397

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN: U31401KA2002SGC030437)
Corporate office, Gopankoppa, Hubballi-580025
E-mail ID: seepmc.hescom@gmail.com / eepmc2.hescom@gmail.com
Website: www.hescom.gov.in

No: HESCOM/SEE(PMC)/EE-P2/AEE-2/2025-26/CYS-8083
Date: 26-11-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through K.P.P.P. Portal Only)

Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, Corporate Office, HESCOM, Hubballi invites tenders for **"Selection of Solar Power Generators (SPGs) on the basis of Build Own & Operate (BOO) for Design, Survey, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of grid connected distributed solar power plants for solarization of selected Agri feeders at Sub-Station (SS) level in HESCOM jurisdiction totally covering approximate 22,000 IP sets, its associated 11kV line to connect the plant with concerned SS and Remote Monitoring System (RMS) of solar power plants through RESCO mode, for 25 years under Component C-Feeder Level Solarization of PM-KUSUM scheme" vide Indent No: HESCOM/2025-26/SE0708 Dt. 26.11.2025.**

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the **website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or **after 26-11-2025.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), Projects Monitoring Cell, HESCOM, Hubli

DIPR/Dharwad/912/Manipal/2025-26

CSIR - CENTRAL GLASS & CERAMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
196, Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Kolkata - 700 032

Advt. No. 01/2025 Date : 26.11.2025

CSIR-Central Glass & Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI), Kolkata is a premier Institute under the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) involved in multidisciplinary R&D programs of both basic and applied nature across scientific disciplines for economic, environmental and societal benefits for the people of India.

Applications are invited online from the citizens of India for filling up of the positions of Scientist at CSIR-CGCRI, Kolkata (West Bengal) and its extension centers having M.E/M. Tech/Ph.D (Submitted) in Science/Engineering/Technology in different disciplines.

The details of posts and other particulars are given below :

Name of the Post : Scientist; **Total Posts :** 28; **Pay Level/Pay Matrix :** Level 11; **Category wise break up :** SC-3, ST-3, OBC (NCL)-8, EWS-2, UR-12.

Date of opening of online applications : 01.12.2025 at 17:00 Hrs.; **Last date for submission of online applications :** 29.12.2025 at 17:00 Hrs.

For further information on **Detailed Advertisement, Terms & Conditions** and other required information and submission of online application and subsequent addendum/corrigendum etc., if any, the interested eligible candidates may log on to the Institute website **www.cgcri.res.in → career → Permanent Staff → Advt. No. 01/2025**.

Controller of Administration

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 E-Mail :md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal: https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	TENDER ID	ITEMS
1	2025_KMML_820852_1	Supply of 3408 MT of Sodium Silicate
2	2025_KMML_820900_1	Supply of N-101 scrubber for Roaster
3	2025_KMML_820915_1	Supply of Girth Gear for Calciner - 1 Nos
4	2025_KMML_820896_1	Supply of Slotting Machine
5	2025_KMML_821197_1	Transportation of 1553 MT of Sulphuric Acid
6	2025_KMML_821133_1	Supply of Aluminium Trihydrate – 1104 MT
7	2025_KMML_821202_1	Supply of Chlorinator Bricks
8	**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** For Dismantling, Fabrication and Replacement of Pigment Separator (A Stream) at KMML – TiO2 Pigment Plant, Chavara, Kollam, Kerala, India **Ref Nos of EOI :** KMML/EOI/MECH/VESSEL-REPL/2025/01 dated 24.11.2025, Visit our website www.kmml.com for more details of the EOI. Last date of offer submission is 08.01.2026	

Chavara 26.11.2025 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

Petronet LNG Limited

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR ANNUAL RATE CONTRACT (ARC) FOR MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL MAINTENANCE WORK FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR AT PETRONET LNG LTD., KOCHI

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites bids from experienced and financially sound contractors for **Annual Rate contract (ARC) for Mechanical & Electrical Maintenance Work for a period of one year** at PETRONET LNG LTD., KOCHI (Kerala).

Interested parties are requested to visit our website **www.petronetlng.in** for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and/or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion. No separate notification w.r.t. this tender shall be issued in press. Interested parties to regularly visit aforesaid PLL website for any updates.

Sr. Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
Survey No-347 (PSEZ), Puthuvypu P.O, Kochi-682508, Kerala, India.
Tel: No.- 0484-2757702 / 1
Email : **cnp_kochi@petronetlng.in; shriranga@petronetlng.in**

DHAKA

Massive fire tears through Dhaka's Korail slum, leaves many homeless

AP

A massive fire tore through Dhaka's Korail slum, destroying about 1,500 shanties and leaving thousands homeless, authorities said on Wednesday. The blaze began Tuesday evening and was extinguished after 16 hours. No casualties were reported. According to official data, about 60,000 families lived in the slum. AP

ANKARA

Turkish journalist jailed for four years for 'threatening Erdogan'

AFP

A Turkish court on Wednesday sentenced journalist Fatih Altayli to four years and two months in prison for allegedly threatening President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Mr. Altayli, 63, denied the charge and plans to appeal, his lawyers said. His conviction drew criticism as part of efforts to silence dissenting journalists. AP

BANGKOK

Myanmar election will not be free or credible: Thai Foreign Minister

REUTERS

Military-ruled Myanmar's election starting next month will be neither free nor credible, Thailand's Foreign Minister Sihasak Phuangketkeow said, calling for the release of detained democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Myanmar's military ousted the Nobel laureate's elected government and seized power in a 2021 coup. AFP

DHAKA

Bangladesh authorities seize 10 kg of gold from Hasina's bank lockers

AP

Anti-corruption authorities in Bangladesh have seized about 10 kg of gold worth about $1.3 million from bank lockers belonging to ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, officials said on Wednesday. Officials said the discovery was made after opening lockers that had been seized in September. AFP

Kremlin confirms U.S. envoy's visit as talks on truce gain momentum

Russian officials say they have not yet received or seen the U.S. peace proposal in detail; Trump defends negotiations led by Witkoff, describing his approach as 'standard dealmaking'; Peskov warns against exaggerating significance of leaked calls

Associated Press
KYIV

A senior Kremlin official confirmed on Wednesday that U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff is set to visit Moscow next week as efforts to find a consensus on ending the nearly four-year war between Russia and Ukraine pick up speed.

But Yuri Ushakov, Russian President Vladimir Putin's foreign affairs adviser, insisted that Kremlin officials still haven't seen a U.S. peace proposal, even though representatives of the United States, Russia and Ukraine held talks earlier this week in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

"Contact is ongoing, including via telephone, but no one has yet sat down at a round-table and discussed this point by point. That hasn't happened," Mr. Ushakov told Russian state media.

Diplomatic manoeuvre: Yuri Ushakov, left, and Dmitry Peskov attend a meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Wednesday. AP

Ukrainian officials did not confirm whether U.S. Army Secretary Dan Driscoll, who in recent weeks has played a high-profile role in the peace efforts, would be in Kyiv in the coming days, as U.S. President Donald Trump indicated on Tuesday.

Mr. Trump's plan for ending the war became public last week, setting off a spate of diplomatic manoeuvring. The initial version appeared heavily slanted toward Russian demands for halting Moscow's invasion of its neighbour.

After weekend talks in Geneva between U.S. and Ukrainian officials, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the plan could be "workable," although key points remain unresolved. A Ukrainian official said that Mr. Zelenskyy hoped to meet with Mr. Trump in the coming days.

Mr. Witkoff's role in the peace efforts came under a renewed spotlight on Tuesday when a report indicated that he coached Mr. Ushakov, the Putin aide, on how Russia's leader should pitch Mr. Trump on the Ukraine peace plan.

Mr. Trump described Mr. Witkoff's reported approach to the Russians in the call as "standard" negotiating procedure.

"He's got to sell this to Ukraine. He's got to sell Ukraine to Russia," Mr. Trump told presspersons aboard Air Force One as he flew to his home in Florida on Tuesday night. "That's what a dealmaker does."

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that he "wouldn't exaggerate [the] significance" of the leaked call, Russian state news outlet Tass reported.

However, "it's clear that there will be a very large number of people in various countries, including the United States, who will try to disrupt these efforts toward peace," Mr. Peskov said from Kyrgyzstan, where Mr. Putin travelled this week.

Asked whether a peace agreement had never been closer, Mr. Peskov said, "It's a little too early to say that," according to Tass.

U.K. Budget increases child welfare allowance, taxes

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The weeks of anticipation ahead of U.K. Chancellor Rachel Reeves's Budget dissipated prematurely after the independent fiscal watchdog, the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR), released its analysis of the Budget some 40 minutes before the Chancellor rose to speak in the House of Commons at around 1230 pm local time.

The OBR apologised for the "technical error" and Ms. Reeves distanced herself from the early release of the document, emphasising it was an OBR issue.

Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons Nus Ghani said a "disappointing trend" across successive governments of officials briefing the media ahead of Parliament had reached "unprecedented levels".

With a view to addressing child poverty, Ms. Reeves, on Wednesday, ended the two-child benefit cap from April next year. The cap meant that parents could claim certain types of tax and welfare credits for only their first two children. Some 30% or 4.3 million British children were living in relative poverty as per the Institute of Fiscal Studies.

Rachel Reeves

The government had already announced an increase in the minimum wage on Tuesday.

Ms. Reeves had indicated weeks earlier than she was considering breaking Labour's manifesto promise to not raise income tax, Value Added Tax and a social security tax called 'National Insurance' but backtracked, presumably owing to falling popularity of the Keir Starmer government and recent movements within the Labour Party to replace the Prime Minister.

The Budget avoided increasing the rates of the three main taxes but still outlined an increase in a medley of taxes totalling £26 million by the end of Parliament (2029-30).

This would include a freezing of income tax thresholds – called a 'stealth tax' because with rising wages and inflation more taxes are paid – until 2031, a tax on salary-sacrificed pension contributions above a threshold, and an increase in tax on properties, savings and dividends. There would also be a "mansion tax" on homes worth more than £2 million.

Gaza's economy collapsed in 2024: UNCTAD

The Hindu Bureau

Gaza's economy suffered an unprecedented collapse, shrinking by 83% in 2024 and pushing every one of its 2.3 million residents into poverty, according to a new assessment by the Trade and Development agency (UNCTAD).

Gaza's GDP fell to just $362 million in 2024, with cumulative losses across 2023 and 2024 reaching 87%. GDP per capita has plunged to $161 among the lowest worldwide dropping to just 6.4% of its 2005 peak. The inflation enclave soared to 238%, while unemployment reached 80%. "All 2.3 million people are now below the poverty line," the report notes.

By April 2025, roughly 70% of all structures in Gaza had been damaged or destroyed, including factories, homes, hospitals, schools, banks, and key infrastructure for energy, water, telecommunications, and agriculture. Satellite analysis shows nighttime luminosity across Gaza, an indicator of economic activity, fell 73% between October 2023 and May 2025.

The devastation extends across the occupied Palestinian Territory. The West Bank is experiencing its sharpest economic downturn on record, driven by movement restrictions, insecurity, and loss of productive capacity. By the end of 2024, Palestinian GDP had fallen to 70% of its 2022 level, sliding back to 2010 levels.

GDP per capita has regressed to 2003 levels. The national Human Development Index is projected to fall from 0.716 to 0.643, erasing nearly 25 years of progress.

Fiscal pressures have intensified. Between 2019 and April 2025, Israel withheld or deducted $1.76 billion in fiscal transfers—equivalent to 12.8% of Palestinian GDP in 2024. Public debt and arrears rose to around $4.2 billion.

UNCTAD estimates that rebuilding Gaza will require more than $70 billion and calls for a durable ceasefire, urgent humanitarian access and sustained international financing.

Hong Kong fire kills 36, leaves 279 missing

Agence France-Presse
HONG KONG

A huge fire that engulfed a Hong Kong residential estate has killed at least 36 people and left more than 200 unaccounted for in the city's worst blaze in decades.

The fire, which started on Wednesday afternoon and was still burning in the early hours of Thursday, shocked the Chinese financial hub, which has some of the world's most densely populated and tallest apartment blocks.

Deadly blaze: Smoke rises after a fire broke out at a residential estate in the Tai Po district of Hong Kong on Wednesday. AP

Huge flames first took hold on bamboo scaffolding on several apartment blocks of Wang Fuk Court, which contains nearly 2,000 flats in eight towers in the northern district of Tai Po and was reportedly undergoing estate-wide maintenance.

City leader John Lee on Thursday updated the death toll to 36 and said that 279 people were unaccounted for.

Twenty-nine people were hospitalised, with seven in critical condition.

A police officer said it was unclear how many people were unaccounted for because residents were still trickling in late into the night to report missing family members.

The fire is believed to have spread from one building to another due to wind and drifting debris.

Sport

Sindarov edges out Wei, wins the title

CHESS WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
ARPORA (GOA)

Life is a great leveller. Ask Wei Yi.

He came back from the dead in the Chess World Cup semifinal against Andrey Esipenko. It was a terrible blunder from the Russian that saved him, and put him in the final, and also in the Candidates.

Luck seemed to continue to favour the seventh seed from China in the final on Wednesday against Javokhir Sindarov. But not for long: Wei's blunder gave the 19-year-old Uzbek a win in the second tie-break game and the World Cup. He is the youngest champion in World Cup history.

On the podium Champion Sindarov flanked by Wei and third-placed Esipenko. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the first tie-break game at Resort Rio, Wei had made a terrible mistake with a pawn push on the king-side on the 30th move, putting Sindarov in a potentially winning position. But his opponent blundered in return straightaway with his own ill-judged pawn push on the same flank, and the game, which had reached a bishop-ending from Queen's Gambit Defence, petered out to a draw in 45 moves.

Soon after the game, Sindarov's second showed him how he had missed a win. "I was very sad, but didn't want to think about it, as I had to play another game," he would admit later. "I thought if I got a chance like in the second, I would make use of it."

He did.

In that second game, an Italian one, Wei blundered with his rook on the 51st move, and Sindarov pounced on it. Such a blunder under time pressure - with something like 20 seconds remaining - is not uncommon and it wouldn't have been easy to find the right sequence of moves, involving a rook sacrifice, to get equality.

And this was Wei's first defeat in the tournament; he had remained unbeaten in 27 games. And Sindarov had offered him a draw, which he had refused. Life is like that, of course.

The result (final, tie-breaks): Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) bt Wei Yi (Chn) 1.5-0.5.

Srikanth, Prannoy sail into the second round

BADMINTON

Uthra Ganesan
LUCKNOW

It took K. Srikanth 31 minutes to wrap up his opening round match at the Syed Modi India International 2025 here on Wednesday as the former World No. 1 continued on the tough road back to the top.

H.S. Prannoy crossed the first hurdle with ease in his 37-minute 21-15, 21-10 win against Shashwat Dalal and the two veterans of Indian badminton proved they still had it in them, despite all the injuries over the past year.

Srikanth, currently 38th, had little trouble against compatriot Kavin Thangam in his 21-13, 21-10 win that saw him set up a second-round match against Saneeth Dayanand. With a mix of drop shots and soft volleys with the occasional smash, Srikanth relied more on his experience than raw power.

Easy outing: Srikanth romped to a win over Kavin. SANDEEP SAXENA

Priyanshu Rajawat overcame Meiraba Maisnam 21-18, 21-14 while Kiran George breezed past Israel's Daniil Dubovenko 21-17, 21-9. In women's draw, former world champion Nozomi Okuhara survived a scare against qualifier Adita Rao to win 22-20, 21-14. Adita raced to a 9-1 lead in the opening game with an attacking play that caught a jittery Nozomi by surprise. At 15-6, an upset was on the cards but that was before Nozomi shifted gears.

She gradually pushed back, mixing her shots and using the sidelines brilliantly to gain crucial points but Adita still had three game points at 20-17. But Nozomi reeled off five straight points to take the game against all odds.

World junior championship runner-up Tanvi Sharma overcame Ashmita Chaliha 21-15, 21-19.

Top results: Men: Singles: K. Srikanth bt Kavin Thangam 21-13, 21-10; Jia Heng Jason Teh (Sgp) bt R.S. Sathish Kumar 21-19, 21-17; Kiran George bt Daniil Dubovenko (Isr) 21-17, 21-9; H.S. Prannoy bt Shashwat Dalal 21-15, 21-10; **Women: Singles:** Unnati Hooda bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-13, 21-18; Hina Akeshi (Jpn) bt Anmol Kharb 21-8, 21-10; Tanvi Sharma bt Ashmita Chaliha 21-15, 21-19; Nozomi Okuhara (Jpn) bt Adita Rao 22-20, 21-14; Shuo Yun Sung (Tpe) bt Ishika Jaiswal (USA) 21-16, 17-21, 21-17.

NO BREAK

We need better scheduling ahead of the Tests: Gambhir

RITU RAJ KONWAR

Gautam Gambhir called for better scheduling ahead of the Test series. “Three days before the start of the first Test, we were in Australia. Suddenly, you come back from there, and have to join a Test team. You have got two days to plan. I am not going to give that excuse. Sometimes we can probably prioritise this better.”

WHAT A FEELING!

It’s pretty special and quite surreal to win 2-0 in India, says Harmer

RITU RAJ KONWAR

Never in a million years did I think that I would have another shot at international cricket. Never in a million years did I think I would come to India again. To be here, win 2-0, be Player-of-the-Series is pretty special and quite surreal — Simon Harmer on playing for South Africa after having given up Test cricket for a Kolpak deal.

BIG BLOW

India slips to fifth in WTC rankings after series loss to South Africa

RITU RAJ KONWAR

India’s chances of reaching the WTC finals took a major hit as it slipped to the fifth spot in the standings following the 0-2 series reverse against the Proteas at home. South Africa, the defending WTC champion, currently occupies the second position behind leader Australia, with 36 points from four Tests.

IN SAFE HANDS

Markram scripts history, becomes fielder with most catches in a Test

ANI

South Africa’s Aiden Markram scripted history by becoming the fielder with most catches in a Test match. Markram grabbed nine catches in the second Test against India, which is more than any fielder in Test history, surpassing the tally of Ajinkya Rahane with eight catches to his name.

India undone: home fortress crumbles again

South Africa, thanks to Harmer’s six-for, registers a 408-run win after bundling out the hosts for 140; the Proteas complete a 2-0 sweep, matching the feat they achieved 25 years ago

SA IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI

Well short: Jadeja’s valiant half-century could only delay the inevitable as the Indian Test team sank to a new low with yet another series reverse at home. RITU RAJ KONWAR

If there is one lesson to be gleaned from history, it is that empires always crumble, at one point or another, in one way or another.

It is only a question of whether it happens gradually or quickly, and unfortunately, in the case of the Indian Test cricket team, it might be edging towards the latter.

A team that lost only four Tests between February 2013 and September 2024 at home has now suffered five defeats in the last 13 months in its backyard.

The latest came on Wednesday, against South Africa at the ACA Stadium here, and it was perhaps the most crushing of all.

The Proteas needed just under two sessions on the last day of the second and final Test to hand India a 408-run thrashing. It was India’s biggest margin of defeat – in terms of runs – in its 93-year Test history.

The reigning World Test champion also completed a 2-0 sweep in India, matching the feat it achieved 25 years ago.

Temba Bavuma’s men produced one of the most clinical performances by a visiting team, dominating nearly every session and outplaying India in every facet.

The hosts began the final day at 27 for two, needing 522 runs to win. It was always going to be an onerous task on a day-five red-soil pitch that had started to hiss. Rishabh’s Pant men folded for 140.

The conditions were ideal for Simon Harmer, and the off-spinner ran through a brittle Indian line-up, returning figures of 23-6-37-6.

Harmer, who had already struck late on the fourth day by removing K.L. Rahul, quickly got into the brass tacks of completing the formalities.

The 36-year-old was unplayable, getting sharp turn and bounce, and the Indian batters had no answers. In the ninth over of the day, Harmer delivered a double-strike. He pegged back Kuldeep Yadav’s middle-stump with a quicker delivery that scooted low and then had Dhruv Jurel caught at slip.

An interesting subplot in the series was how Harmer had kept Rishabh Pant, one of India’s finest players of spin, under a leash. He did so again, removing the India skipper with a delivery that turned and kicked before going off the bat into Aiden Markram’s hands.

Harmer bowled unchanged in a marathon spell in the first session (15.1-5-22-3) to leave India tottering at 90 for five.

After missing out on a five-for narrowly on both occasions in the first Test in Kolkata, Harmer ticked that box as well when he forced Washington Sundar to edge to slip.

Ravindra Jadeja put up a valiant resistance, stroking his way to a half-century. However, he was only successful in delaying the inevitable.

Keshav Maharaj applied the finishing touches for the touring party, taking the last two wickets, including that of Jadeja.

While the day belonged to Harmer, the game was set up by Marco Jansen’s all-round performance in the first innings (93 and six for 48).

It was fitting that South Africa’s crowning moment came when the lanky pacer pulled off a one-handed stunner in the deep to dismiss Mohammed Siraj.

So good was the catch that even the usually phlegmatic Bavuma couldn’t mask his astonishment. It was that kind of a series.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA — 1ST INNINGS
489 in 151.1 overs
INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
201 in 83.5 overs
SOUTH AFRICA — 2ND INNINGS
260/5 decl. in 78.3 overs
INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Target: 549
Yashavi Jaiswal c Verreynne b Jansen 13 *(20b, 1x4, 1x6)*, K.L. Rahul b Harmer 6 *(29b)*, B. Sai Sudharsan c Markram b Muthusamy 14 *(139b, 1x4)*, Kuldeep Yadav b Harmer 5 *(38b, 1x4)*, Dhruv Jurel c Markram b Harmer 2 *(3b)*, Rishabh Pant c Markram b Harmer 13 *(16b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja st. Verreynne b Maharaj 54 *(87b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Washington Sundar c Markram b Harmer 16 *(44b, 2x4)*, Nitish Kumar c Verreynne b Harmer 0 *(3b)*, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 1 *(2b)*, Mohammed Siraj c Jansen b Maharaj 0 *(4b)*; Extras (b-5, lb-9, nb-2): 16; Total (in 63.5 overs): 140.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-17 (Jaiswal, 6.1 overs), 2-21 (Rahul, 9.2), 3-40 (Kuldeep, 23.3), 4-42 (Jurel, 23.6), 5-58 (Pant, 31.2), 6-95 (Sai Sudharsan, 47.5), 7-130 (Washington, 60.4), 8-138 (Nitish, 62.1), 9-140 (Jadeja, 63.1).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Jansen 15-7-23-1, Mulder 4-1-6-0, Harmer 23-6-37-6, Maharaj 12.5-1-37-2, Markram 2-0-2-0, Muthusamy 7-1-21-1.

PoM: Jansen; **PoS:** Harmer.
South Africa won by 408 runs and clinched the two-match series 2-0.
Next match: First ODI: Nov. 30, Ranchi, 1.30 p.m.

Indian cricket is important, I’m not: coach Gambhir

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI

India coach Gautam Gambhir has now presided over two Test series defeats at home since he took over last year.

After losing to New Zealand 0-3 in 2024, India went down to South Africa 0-2 with a massive 408-run defeat in the second Test at the ACA Stadium here on Wednesday.

When asked if he was the right man for the job, at least for the longer format, Gambhir put the ball in the BCCI’s court but was quick to point to his successes.

“It is up to the BCCI to decide. I have said it during my first press conference when I took over as the head coach that Indian cricket is important, I’m not important. And I sit here and say the same thing,” said Gambhir, under whom India has lost 10 out of 19 Tests.

“People can keep forgetting, but I’m the same guy who got results in England (2-2 Test series draw), with a young team. I’m sure you guys will forget very soon because a lot of people keep talking about New Zealand. I’m the same guy, under whom [we] won the Champions Trophy and Asia Cup as well,” he added.

He also explained that the team was undergoing a transition in both batting and bowling departments and called for patience.

“I don’t think ever in Indian cricket, something like this has happened where the transition is happening in the spin bowling and batting department.

“So all of us need to give them time. I am sure they have got the skill, talent and ability. Consistency will come with experience. When they play in difficult situations, eventually they will deliver.”

Commenting on the defeat, Gambhir termed the batting collapse in the first innings as unacceptable.

“We need to apply [ourselves] better. At one stage, we were 95 for one. From there to 122 for seven, it is not acceptable,” said Gambhir.

“We have seen these collapses in the past as well. Someone needs to put their hand up and say that I am going to stop this [collapse],” he emphasised.

Not on: Gambhir said India’s batting collapse in the first innings was unacceptable. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Take a bow! South Africa played a brand of cricket worthy of a World Test champion to dominate India in India. RITU RAJ KONWAR

An incredible achievement for this group, says Bavuma

S. Dipak Ragav
GUWAHATI

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma hailed his team’s 2-0 series triumph over India, adding that it was not something he expected before the start of the tour.

“Coming to India is always a tough prospect. What makes it sweeter is the fact that we have been on the other side of the result, and we know how dark it can be,” Bavuma said on Wednesday.

“I would have never thought 2-0 would be the result at the end of the series. I think it’s an incredible achievement for this group of players. Again, we’ve gone on to etch ourselves in history, and we are creating some memorable moments.”

> I would have never thought 2-0 would be the result at the end of the series... we’ve gone on to etch ourselves in history

The 408-run win at the ACA Stadium extended Bavuma’s unbeaten record as the Test captain of the Rainbow Nation (11 wins from 12 games).

The 35-year-old, who led South Africa to the World Test Championship title earlier this year, said he has grown into the role.

“For me, it’s really a process of discovery. I think now I’m probably a lot more assured of myself as a person, as a captain, and of what I’m trying to do out there,” said Bavuma.

“Within the team, we have a lot of leaders. I think it’s about understanding where certain guys provide value within the team and allowing them to flourish in that space.”

In the first Test in Kolkata, it was Bavuma’s vital 55 in the second innings that proved crucial in the 30-run win, and the skipper spoke about compartmentalising his two roles.

“I have learned over the last couple of years to be able to separate the captain and the batter.

“ It’s important that you perform your primary skill as well as you can. I always try to ensure that, from a batting point of view, I’m contributing as much as I can to the team,” said Bavuma.

Ahmedabad formally named 2030 CWG host

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

The Commonwealth Games will return to India after a gap of 20 years, with Ahmedabad hosting the 2030 centenary edition.

Commonwealth Sport (CS) on Wednesday made the announcement from Glasgow through a physical-cum-virtual press conference after its General Assembly ratified the Executive Board’s October 15 proposal in favour of Ahmedabad ahead of the Nigerian capital city of Abuja.

Boost

The opportunity would give a boost to India’s ambition to bid for the 2036 Olympics.

CS president Dr. Donald Rukare said the decision followed a “robust evaluation process.”

The Indian delegation, including Gujarat Sports Minister Harsh Sanghavi and Indian Olympic Association president P.T. Usha, underlined that the Games would be athlete-centric and sustainable “which can be taken for next 100 years.”

Acknowledging the challenges related to Delhi hosting the 2010 Games, which was mired in controversies due to delayed projects and allegations of corruption, Gujarat Sports Department principal secretary Ashwini Kumar said the Games could be staged with existing infrastructure.

But with the city having aspirations of becoming the sports capital of the country, new venues would be added.

“This time we are well-prepared. The organising committee is going to be established within a month or so. Our fundamentals are very strong,” said Ashwini, adding lessons could be learnt from the past editions to avoid over-committing on infrastructure.

He said infrastructure would be built at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave and Gujarat Police Academy, which would include an athletics stadium and a shooting range.

“The funding has been secured by the Government.

“The construction is likely to begin by April 2026, and we will be completing by the end of 2028 or early 2029,” he said, adding Ahmedabad would also host the 2029 World Police and Fire Games.

Ashwini said October, coinciding with the festive season of Navratri and Diwali, would be the preferred month to host the Games.

INBRIEF

India edges Malaysia in Azlan Shah Cup hockey

The Indian men's hockey team eked out a narrow 4-3 victory against hosts Malaysia at the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup in Ipoh (Malaysia) on Wednesday. India will next play New Zealand on Thursday.

The result: India 4 (Selvam Karthi 7, Sukhjeet Singh 21, Amit Rohidas 39, Sanjay 53) bt Malaysia 3 (Faizal Saari 13, Fitri Saari 36, Marhan Jalil 45).

Nissanka's explosive knock earns Sri Lanka its first win

Opener Pathum Nissanka hit an unbeaten 98 off 58 balls as Sri Lanka hammered Zimbabwe by nine wickets in Rawalpindi on Tuesday for its first win in the T20 tri-series. Nissanka's knock, which featured four sixes and 11 boundaries, propelled Sri Lanka to 148 for one with 22 balls to spare on a wicket where Zimbabwe batters struggled to reach 146 for five.

The scores: Zimbabwe 146/5 in 20 overs (Sikandar Raza 37) lost to Sri Lanka 148/1 in 16.2 overs (Pathum Nissanka 98 n.o.); **Toss:** Zimbabwe; **PoM:** Nissanka.

LIVE TELECAST

SMAT: JioHotstar, 9, 11.30 a.m. 1.30, 4.30 p.m.

WPL Auction: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.

Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 5 & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Conference League: Sony Sports Ten 3 & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Hooda headlines Rajasthan's emphatic win over TN

The top-order batter's imperious strokes make a mockery of the southern side's modest target; Smaran excels as Karnataka pips Uttarakhand in the final over

SMAT

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
AHMEDABAD

Up, up and away: Hooda smacked six boundaries and maximums each during his marauding knock. VIJAY SONEJI

Batting implosion, dropped catches, and the unhesitant lucid cold-fury of Deepak Hooda's unbeaten 76 (36b, 6x4, 6x6) combined to condemn Tamil Nadu to a six-wicket drubbing by Rajasthan in their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Elite Group-D opening round match at the Narendra Modi Stadium B-Ground here on Wednesday.

Hooda didn't so much attack as command the arc straight down the ground. It was an innings built not on improvisation but on an unshakeable certainty: if it was in his arc, it was going straight back where it came from – a blur past the non-striker, past the umpire, past the rope before the fielders even twitched.

He struck five sixes in the 'V', the standout being a one-handed straight hit off left-arm spinner Sai Kishore that sailed well beyond the sightscreen.

He also swept the same bowler for a couple of fours to deep square leg, before producing an imperious lofted straight drive for a four off pacer R. Rajkumar.

He added 60 runs for the third-wicket partnership with Mahipal Lomror (17) and 49 for the fourth-wicket stand with Kartik Sharma (35). Kartik tore into Sai Kishore, hitting him for a long-on six, a pulled six over midwicket, and a straight four – all off successive deliveries.

Hooda was dropped twice – first on 30 by Tamil Nadu captain Varun Chakaravarthy at cover off Rajkumar, and later on 56 by Sai Kishore at deep square leg off Varun.

Earlier, Tamil Nadu's top and middle order unravelled, thread by thread, until a brain-fade run-out tugged at the final stitch and left it tottering at 89 for six.

It took a 32-run seventh-wicket stand between all-rounders Sonu Yadav (43 n.o.) and Rajkumar (17), followed by a 30-run eighth-wicket union between Sonu and Varun (11) to drag Tamil Nadu to a competitive total.

Tushar Raheja skied a pull to cover off Ashok Sharma, and Amith Sathvik edged a cut to third man off the same pacer.

Shivam Singh top-edged a sweep to deep backward square off Manav Suthar, N. Jagadeesan slapped Kamlesh Nagarkoti to deep point, Sai Kishore missed a reverse sweep to be bowled off Suthar, and Shahrukh Khan ran himself out going for a quick single.

daCunha/AB/1069

SYED MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY — WEDNESDAY'S SCORES

Group A: At Lucknow: Railways 158/5 in 20 overs (Mohammad Saif 48, Ashutosh Sharma 61) lost to Mumbai 159/3 in 15.5 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 62, Suryakumar Yadav 47).
Odisha 176/7 in 20 overs (Biplab Samantaray 53, Sambit Baral 40, M.D. Nidheesh 4/35) lost to Kerala 177/0 in 16.3 overs (Sanju Samson 51 n.o., Rohan Kunnummal 121 n.o.).
Chhattisgarh 133/9 in 20 overs (Ayush Pandey 31, Shashank Singh 34, Yash Thakur 3/25) bt Vidarbha 106 in 19.1 overs (Sourabh Majumdar 3/23).
Andhra 143/9 in 20 overs (Ricky Bhui 46, Mukhtar Hussain 4/20) bt Assam 114 in 19.4 overs (Pradyun Saikia 44, S. Raju 3/20).
Group B: At Kolkata: Maharashtra 130 in 19.5 overs (Auqib Nabi 3/28) lost to Jammu & Kashmir 132/5 in 18.4 overs.
Goa 172/9 in 20 overs (Abhinav Tejrana 72, Shivam Mavi 3/24) lost to Uttar Pradesh 173/4 in 18.2 overs (Aryan Juyal 93 n.o., Sameer Rizvi 38).
Madhya Pradesh 144/9 in 20 overs (Shivang Kumar 45, C.V. Milind 3/34) lost to Hyderabad 145/5 in 18.1 overs (Rahul Buddhi 59 n.o.).
Bihar 157/7 in 20 overs (Sakibul Gani 36, Bipin Saurabh 36) lost to Chandigarh 160/4 in 18.4 overs (Manan Vohra 50, Arjun Azad 31, Raj Bawa 36 n.o.).
Group C: At Hyderabad: Services 182/9 in 20 overs (Gaurav Kochar 60) lost to Gujarat 183/2 in 12.3 overs (Aarya Desai 60, Urvil Patel 119 n.o.).
Himachal Pradesh 147/8 in 20 overs (Innesh Mahajan 33, Nikhil Gangta 35 n.o.) lost to Punjab 153/5 in 13.5 overs (Anmolpreet Singh 43, Salil Arora 36).
Pondicherry 201/9 in 20 overs (Ajay Rohera 33, Akash Pugazhanthi 60, Aman Kham 35, Samant Jakhar 3/24) bt Haryana 196/6 in 20 overs (Arsh Ranga 90, Yashvardhan Dalal 52, Nishant Sindhu 33, Aman Khan 4/28).
Baroda 181/8 in 20 overs (Shivalik Sharma 32, Krunal Pandya 39, Bhani Pania 53 n.o.) lost to Bengal 182/4 in 17.1 overs (Abishek Porel 50, Karan Lal 42, Shahbaz Ahmed 38 n.o.).
Group D: At Ahmedabad: Uttarakhand 197/5 in 20 overs (Aanjaneya Suryavanshi 54, Kunal Chandela 88, Vidwath Kaverappa 3/37) lost to Karnataka 198/5 in 20 overs (R. Smaran 67, Pravin Dubey 38 n.o., Rajan Kumar 3/24).
Tripura 123 in 19.3 overs (Hanuma Vihari 31, Manisankar Murasingh 56, Jaydev Unadkat 3/19, Chirag Jani 3/19) lost to Saurashtra 124/6 in 16 overs.
Tamil Nadu 169/8 in 20 overs (Sonu Yadav 43 n.o., Ashok Sharma 3/40) lost to Rajasthan 170/4 in 16.3 overs (Shubham Garhwal 32, Deepak Hooda 76 n.o., Kartik Sharma 35).
Delhi 132 in 19.2 overs (Priyansh Arya 39, Ayush Badoni 30, Sushant Mishra 3/25) lost to Jharkhand 138/3 in 14.5 overs (Kumar Kushagra 45 n.o.).
Plate: At Pune: Mizoram 198/6 in 20 overs (Jehu Anderson 41, Sahil Sharma 36, Joseph Lalthankhuma 33, K.C. Cariappa 48, Imliwati Lemtur 3/47) bt Nagaland 182/9 in 20 overs (Sedezhalie Rupero 34, Rongsen Jonathan 30, Chetan Bist 31, K.C. Cariappa 3/29).
Meghalaya 190/7 in 20 overs (Kishan Lyngdoh 115, Arpit Bhatewara 63, Md Saptulla 4/18) bt Sikkim 181/4 in 20 overs (Amit Rajera 36, Kranthi Kumar 66 n.o., Robin Limboo 35).
Manipur 207/3 in 20 overs (Ulenyai Khwairakpam 33, Langlonyamba Meitan Keishangbam 56 n.o., Kangabam Priyojit 101 n.o.) bt Arunachal Pradesh 117/9 in 20 overs (Neelam Obi 36, Pheiroijam Jotin 3/23).

My role is to take the game deep and finish things off: Smaran

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
AHMEDABAD

Carrying on: Smaran says that coming into the tournament on the back of a heavy run-scoring Ranji season helps. VIJAY SONEJI

Format, opposition, conditions – nothing seems to matter to R. Smaran in his current vein of form. The Karnataka batter continued his prolific run with a career-best 67 (41b, 7x4, 2x6) – his second T20 fifty – to set up a successful chase of 198 against Uttarakhand in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy tournament here on Wednesday. Karnataka got home with five wickets to spare.

Smaran later reflected that coming into the tournament on the back of a heavy run-scoring Ranji season helps, allowing him to "carry over the confidence" and have a positive start to the campaign.

The 22-year-old explained that his role in the T20 setup is "very simple" – "to take the game deep and finish things off."

A compact, clean-hitting batter, Smaran is especially strong against spin, using his long levers to access both sides of the wicket. He displayed it against leg-spinner Himanshu Bish, launching two towering sixes down the ground. There were no funky strokes in his knock – just pure, orthodox ball-striking.

"You need to get your basics right in order to get those big hits. But I think I'm not a guy who can straight away go in and get those big hits. That is something I'm trying to work on – to get going from ball one," he said.

He added that he's been working on playing the reverse sweep.

"Both point and short third will be in (inside the circle) for the spinners. And I think if you get that shot right, it straightaway puts pressure on the bowler."

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Big win for Karnataka

Karnataka completed a fine seven-wicket win over Himachal Pradesh in a Cooch Behar Trophy Elite Group-C match at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday. From an overnight 98 for three, the home side chased down the target with ease, scoring the remaining 50 runs in just 61 balls.

Karnataka is now group topper with two wins out of two (12 points) and will next meet Andhra in an away fixture starting December 1.

The scores: Himachal Pradesh 162 in 68.5 overs & 182 in 78 overs lost to Karnataka 197 in 76.2 overs & 148/3 in 40.1 overs (Aadesh D. Urs 40).

Jashwanth and Chethan excel

M. Jashwanth (128) and A. Chethan Bhat (5/26) starred for City Gymkhana as it thrashed Whirlwind Cricketers by 94 runs in the KSCA (Group I) u-14 inter-club tournament.

The scores: City Gymkhana 256 in 49.5 overs (M. Jashwanth 128, Paavan Krishna 4/36) bt Whirlwind Cricketers 162 in 49.1 overs (A. Chethan Bhat 5/26).

Merchants (1) 237/9 in 50 overs (Krithik Naveen 42 n.o.) lost to Social Cricketers 238/2 in 36.3 overs (Athreya Bhat 101 n.o., Vastvik Sharma 72, Ryan Tomar 46 n.o.).

Mustafa

Citizen Cultural CA 226/9 in 50 overs (J. Jasim Rahman 62, Yedwath Bharathwaj 58) lost to National United 227/4 in 41.2 overs (Shreyas Amit Kanade 101 n.o., Saarish D. Prakash 47).

Coles 63 in 23.2 overs (Ved Nahar 5/31) lost to Vijaya 65/1 in 12.2 overs.

Bangalore Occasionals 244 in 47.4 overs (Sohum Joshi 74, Pranav Krishnan 45, Daksh Siddappa 4/45) bt Malleswaram Gymkhana 127 in 41.2 overs (J. Mohak Gowdaa 60).

Sir Syed Cricketers 256/9 in 50 overs (K.S. Vismith 42, Farhan Ahmed Shaikh 65) bt Jayanagar Cricketers 71 in 26.3 overs (Arnav Gowda 44).

Herons 205 in 43.5 overs (Mahin Srikanth 43, Y. Gagan 65) bt BUCC (1) 101/9 in 36.4 overs (Kedar Kaundinya 40).

Hockey trials

Hockey Karnataka will conduct selection trials for the women's team in preparation for the South Zone ASMITA sub-junior championship in Kadapa from Dec. 26 to 30. Those born on or after Jan. 1, 2009 are eligible. Trials will be held at the Hockey Stadium in Shanthi Nagar from 9.30 a.m. on Dec. 1.

KSFA Chief Minister's Cup in January

The second edition of KSFA Chief Minister's Cup football tournament for constituencies in Bengaluru will commence from the third week of January 2026. To enter, contact: B.K. Muniraj (9916474359) or M. Sridharan (9448801444).

Double delight for Mustafa

Mohammed Mustafa won both the billiards and snooker titles at the State-ranking sub junior boys tournament.

The results (final): Billiards: Mohammed Mustafa bt Nachiketa Koushik 199–114; **snooker:** Mohammed Mustafa bt Karan Sheshadri 2–0 (55-36, 68-18).

Mounts Club posts win

Mounts Club beat DYES Vidya Nagar 43-39 in a women's quarterfinal league match at the State Association Cup basketball tournament here on Wednesday.

SNAPSHOTS

India clinches silver and bronze medals

India's young paddlers made a strong debut at the ITTF World youth table tennis championships 2025 at Cluj Napoca (Romania), returning with a historic silver medal in the under-19 boys' team event and a bronze in the under-15 girls' team event. In the under-19 boys' team final, Japan beat India 3-0 while South Korea blanked India 3-0 in the girls' under-15 team semifinals.

The results:

Boys: U-19: Final: Japan bt India 3-0 (Ryuusei Kawakami bt Ankur Bhattacharjee 15-17, 11-6, 10-12, 11-4, 13-11; Kazuki Yoshiyama bt P.B. Abhinandh 11-7, 11-8, 11-6; Tamito Watanabe bt Priyanuj Bhattacharyya 11-9, 11-7, 11-3).

Girls: U-15: Semifinals: South Korea bt India 3-0 (Yerim Heo bt Ankolika Chakraborty 11-4, 11-6, 11-9; Kim Minseo bt Divyanshi Bhowmick 11-4, 8-11, 10-12, 11-6, 11-6; Lee Haelin bt M. Ananya 6-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10).

MBSG appoints Lobera as the new head coach

Mohun Bagan Super Giant officially announced the appointment of Sergio Lobera Rodriguez as new head coach on Wednesday.

Lobera steps in to replace Jose Molina and will oversee MBSG for the remainder of the current season.

The Spanish tactician is scheduled to commence training sessions with the squad – including key figures such as Jamie Maclaren, Jason Cummings, and Vishal Kaith from Nov. 30.

The reigning ISL champion confirmed the move just hours after Odisha FC announced Lobera's departure.

WPL's mega auction: ODI World Cup stars in the spotlight

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

On November 2, women's cricket in India had its red-letter day when the national team defeated South Africa to win the ODI World Cup for the first time. Before November draws to a close, an opportunity to build on the warmth of that joyous occasion and propel many more of India's women cricketers into the limelight is in store.

It will all transpire on Thursday afternoon when the Women's Premier League's mega auction, ahead of the fourth edition in 2026, is held at the JW Marriott Hotel in Aerocity here.

For an action-packed season to unfold, the auction exercise on Thursday – the first major revamp of the five teams since the league's initiation in 2023 – will hold the key as 277 players (194 Indians and 83 overseas) go under the hammer for a maximum of 73 slots. The highest base price bracket of ₹50 lakh features 19 players, among which six – Deepti Sharma, Harleen Deol, Kranti Goud, Uma Chetry, Pratika Rawal and Pooja Vastrakar – are Indian. Of this lot, only Vastrakar wasn't part of India's World Cup-winning squad.

Among the five franchises, UP Warriorz and Gujarat Giants are set to be the busiest. Having retained just the uncapped Shweta Sehrawat for ₹50 lakh, Warriorz have the highest purse of ₹14.5 crore going into the auction. Giants, which retained the Australian pair of Ashleigh Gardner and Beth Mooney, have ₹9 crore in their kitty.

Two-time champion Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals, runner-up in all three seasons, have retained five players each. Royal Challengers Bengaluru, which won the title in 2024, has also kept its core group of Smriti Mandhana, Richa Ghosh, Ellyse Perry and Shreyanka Patil.

With recency bias tending to be a factor at auctions, the leading performers of the ODI World Cup, although a different white-ball format, are likely to be in high demand. The event will kick off with the marquee set of Deepti, Renuka Singh, Sophie Devine, Sophie Ecclestone, Alyssa Healy, Amelia Kerr, Meg Lanning and Laura Wolvaardt. Besides these high-profile names who will attract bidding wars, it will be worth watching out for left-arm spinner N. Sree Charani (₹30 lakh) and Australian opener Phoebe Litchfield (₹50 lakh).

Auction time: 3.30 p.m onwards.

Chelsea cruises past Barcelona, Leverkusen blanks Man City

Stunner! Chelsea's Estevao caps off a slaloming run past Barcelona's defence for this wonder goal. REUTERS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Chelsea romped to a dominant 3-0 win at home to 10-man Barcelona in the Champions League on Tuesday, while Pep Guardiola's much-changed Manchester City went down to its first defeat of the campaign against Bayer Leverkusen.

Chelsea emerged emphatic winner thanks to goals from 18-year-old Estevao and Liam Delap after a Jules Kounde own-goal had given the 2021 winner a first-half lead.

The visitors played just over half the encounter a player down following captain Ronald Araujo's dismissal. Victory propelled Chelsea to fifth in the league phase standings on 10 points, while a second defeat has the Catalans down in 15th spot.

Guardiola surprisingly rested the majority of his stars at the Etihad, with Erling Haaland, Ruben Dias, Bernardo Silva and Gianluigi Donnarumma all left out of the starting line-up as Man City went down 2-0 to Leverkusen. Man City is on 10 points.

The results: Ajax 0 lost to Benfica 2 (Dahl 6, Barreiro 90); Galatasaray 0 lost to Union Saint-Gilloise 1 (David 57); Bodo/Glimt 2 (Blomberg 27, Fet 87-pen) drew with Juventus 3 (Openda 48, McKennie 59, David 90+1); Borussia Dortmund 4 (Guirassy 45+2, 54, Adeyemi 58, Svensson 90+5) bt Villarreal 0; Chelsea 3 (Kounde 27-og, Estevao 55, Delap 73) bt Barcelona (ESP) 0; Manchester City 0 lost to Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Grimaldo 23, Schick 54).

Marseille 2 (Aubameyang 46, 50) bt Newcastle 1 (Barnes 6); Napoli 2 (McTominay 65, Jankovic 72-og) bt Qarabag 0; Slavia Prague 0 drew with Athletic Bilbao 0.